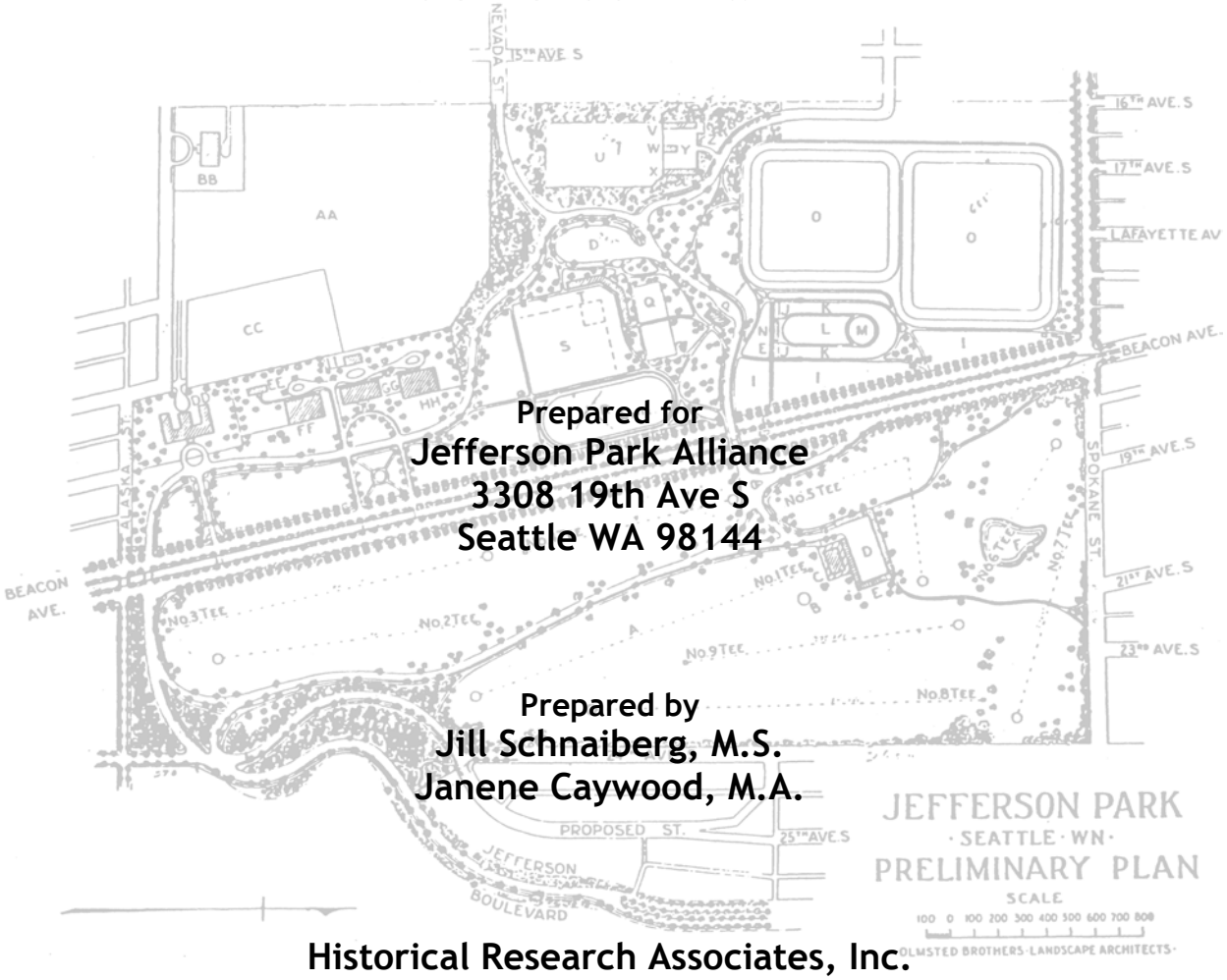
Landscape Inventory
of
Jefferson Park



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1.0 Introduction

In 2001, Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) contracted with the Jefferson Park Alliance to conduct a landscape inventory of Jefferson Park. The primary goal of the study is to determine whether the park as a whole or some component part qualifies for listing under the City of Seattle's Landmark Program.

Located in Seattle's Beacon Hill neighborhood, Jefferson Park has a rich cultural heritage. Included as a component of Seattle's citywide network of parks and boulevards designed by the Olmsted Brothers, the park contains some features included in J.C. Olmsted's 1912 "preliminary plan." In particular, the park's 18-hole golf course closely parallels what Olmsted envisioned. In addition to its association with a leading landscape architect, Jefferson Park has supported a wide variety of users for more than a century. Featuring a diverse array of facilities, residents have used the park for many forms of both active and passive recreation, including golf, lawn bowling, and picnicking. Today, that diversity of uses continues. The sixth largest park in the city, Jefferson is a significant regional resource for south end neighborhoods and is the central recreational feature within the community. Today, Jefferson Park contains a variety of facilities and improvements never envisioned by J. C. Olmsted as he prepared his preliminary plan.

In the following report, Section 2 reviews our research methodology. Section 3 presents the history of development of Jefferson Park. Section 4, Analysis and Evaluation, includes a discussion of the existing conditions in Jefferson Park and an analysis of the historical significance and integrity of the park and its component parts. References cited are listed in Section 5.

2.0 Methodology for Jefferson Park

To learn more about the landscape history of Jefferson Park, historians at HRA reviewed a variety of primary and secondary sources and visited a number of local repositories. The majority of our primary materials came from the Seattle Municipal Archives. We also conducted research at Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), City of Seattle's Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use (DCLU), Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Regional Branch, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, Seattle Public Library, and the University of Washington's libraries.

2.1 Seattle Municipal Archives

The Seattle Municipal Archives houses the Don Sherwood Parks History collection. Sherwood, a Seattle Park Department employee, used Park Department files to chronicle the history of the city's parks and playgrounds. The Jefferson Park Alliance researched these files, providing photocopies of their materials to HRA historians. We supplemented those primary documents with articles written by Sherwood that were also available in this collection. In addition, we found numerous historical photographs of Jefferson Park in the Seattle Municipal Archives' online collection.

2.2 Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

HRA historians conducted research at SPU's Engineering Records Vault. This facility contains plans, maps, aerial photographs, and survey information. For Jefferson Park, we examined numerous construction drawings and plans. Unfortunately, these materials were not indexed, making searching difficult. We did, however, locate plans for park's reservoirs and gatehouse, as well as an overview plan for modern plantings along Beacon Avenue.

2.3 Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use (DCLU)

DCLU's microfilm library houses historical records of development permits, plans, and code violations for Seattle properties. The materials are organized by address and are available for copying. At DCLU we examined permits and plans for Jefferson Park, finding information on many of the park's structures, including the fire station, shop building, and compost shed.

2.4 Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Regional Branch

The Washington State Archives maintains a regional branch on the Bellevue Community College campus. The facility contains local government records, including those from county offices, such as the Auditor, Clerk, Treasurer, and the Board of Commissioners, and from municipalities, school districts, and other service districts. For Jefferson Park, we were particularly interested in the archives collection of property cards. Property record cards generally contain the following information: the record of tax assessments, photographs of the buildings, description of construction, date of construction, small sketch of the exterior plan of buildings, segregation dates, numbers for land parcels, some ownership information, and some excise numbers. We found property cards for the fire station, the water quality lab, and the golf clubhouse. We also examined "Station House Files, 1900-1960," to learn more about the fire station's history but did not find any useful information.

2.5 Seattle Parks and Recreation

At Seattle Parks and Recreation we examined the city's collection of construction drawings for Jefferson Park. We found both historic and modern drawings in the collection, many of which helped address our research questions. We also reviewed the department's property management group files. These files had a variety of materials, such as correspondence, ordinances, maps, tax statements, and contracts. Most of the information was not useful, although we did find some information on city ordinances impacting the park, as well as some maps and plans.

2.6 Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods houses the city's landmark program. We contacted the landmarks program to locate information on other Olmsted-designed parks that had been nominated as landmarks. We copied nominations for Lincoln, Kinnear, and Hiawatha parks.

2.7 Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks

We met with Anne Knight and Jerry Arbes of the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks. They had conducted extensive research in the Olmsted library in Brookline, Massachusetts, copying numerous drawings and correspondence. From their materials we obtained correspondence from the Olmsted Brothers firm relating to Jefferson Park. We also reproduced two maps of the park.

2.8 Seattle Public Library

The Seattle Public Library is an excellent source of secondary histories on Seattle. We conducted research there on several different topics, such as the history of the Water Department, the city's trolley system, and Seattle's park system. We also examined the library's collection of Kroll maps. Furthermore, the Seattle Public Library has the collection of Don Sherwood handwritten essays on each of Seattle's parks, including Jefferson, which we copied.

2.9 University of Washington

Microforms and Newspapers Collections

Using this collection, we examined Sanborn maps on microfilm. These maps were compiled for fire-insurance purposes and often display structures in detail, revealing information about the size and nature of the building. Unfortunately, these maps did not cover Jefferson Park at an appropriate scale to learn more about the park's infrastructure. They did, however, provide evidence about the overall development of the Beacon Hill neighborhood.

Architecture-Urban Planning Library

This library contained many useful secondary sources, including articles and books, on the history of Seattle's park systems and the Olmsted Brothers. It also had the report on Seattle's parks and boulevards produced by the Olmsted Brothers in 1903.

3.0 Site History

Jefferson Park's history can be divided into four major periods. The first period covers 1892 to 1912, and includes early planning for the park, as well as the establishment of many important park features that exist today. The second period encompasses the years 1913 through 1940, in which important features such as the 18-hole and 9-hole golf courses were developed. The third period spans 1941-1954, reflecting many of the changes brought by the World War II, when an army recreation camp was established at the site. It also covers the initial development of the Veterans Hospital. The fourth period – the modern era – addresses the period from 1954 through the present. Major events that occurred during this period include the construction of Asa Mercer Middle School, which significantly altered the composition of historic-era park infrastructure. It also covers the construction or expansion of many facilities, such as the enlargement of the community center, the lawn bowling clubhouse, development of the City's South Division horticultural facility, and major expansions within the Veterans Administration complex. A timeline, listing the major construction events within Jefferson Park, is available at the end of the section.

3.1 Early Planning and the Establishment of Jefferson Park as a Component of the Seattle Park System: 1892 – 1912

In the earliest years of Jefferson Park's history, the City of Seattle passed a number of ordinances and undertook basic construction projects, laying the groundwork for the park. In 1892, the city opened an isolation hospital, called a pesthouse, on Beacon Hill for smallpox patients. It was located in a densely wooded property, which would later become the site of Asa Mercer Middle School, and set aside for the support of the state university. By 1914, the smallpox patients had left, moving to the Firlands Sanitarium north of Seattle (History Link 2001). In 1898, Ordinance No. 4905 authorized the State to sell a 235-acre tract of State school land on Beacon Hill to the city for $11, 711, for the purposes of building a reservoir and cemetery. Part of this property included what would become Jefferson Park (Sherwood 1977). Also during this period, a workingmen's home or "Lazy Husbands Ranch" where fathers who neglected their families were sent to work, was added to the area (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "The Settlement of Beacon Hill," no author, no date).

In 1902, the Board of Park Commissioners requested that the Olmsted Brothers make a preliminary visit to Seattle and prepare a report for a system of parks and boulevards. The following year, J.C. Olmsted visited the city, including the area that was to become Jefferson Park, and wrote the report "Comprehensive System of Parks and Parkways" for Seattle. On October 19, 1903, the Seattle City Council formally adopted the Olmsted report, cementing the relationship with the landscape architecture firm (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

During this period Seattle developed its municipal water system, including the Cedar River Pipeline Number Two and the Beacon Hill reservoirs. In its pioneer days, Seattle relied on a number of privately owned water systems. The Spring Hill Water Company, for example, secured its supply of water from the west slope of First Hill, storing it in wooden tanks in the south end of the city. In 1886, the company also constructed a pumping station at Lake Washington and a reservoir at Beacon Hill (Mighetto and Montgomery 1998: 130).

During the late 19th century, however, Seattle's growing population strained the existing water systems. As early as 1888, Mayor Robert Moran wrote a letter to the Common Council suggesting that the city adopt a gravity system with a source at the Cedar River in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. When the fire of 1889 destroyed the city's business district, the failure of the water supply prompted citizens to push for a larger system, providing a strong argument for the move from a private to a city-owned water system (McWilliams 1955: 53-55). On July 8, 1889 voters passed the proposition to bond the city for a million dollars to build the Cedar River water supply system and engineers prepared plans for the new system (McWilliams 1955: 53-55).

A citywide fight over public versus private construction and management, however, would delay construction on the project until the late 1890s (Mighetto and Montgomery 1998: 130). In the interim Moran pushed ahead, asking city engineers in 1891 to develop a complete water distribution system. City Engineer R.H. Thomson responded to Moran's request, and in 1895, Seattle citizens voted in support of $1.25 million in revenue bonds to acquire and develop the Cedar River Watershed and establish the Water Department (Landmark Nomination Form for Lincoln Reservoir and Bobby Morris Playfield 1998).

Finally, on April 19, 1899, Seattle awarded a contract for Cedar River Pipeline Number One. The contract, prepared by Thomson, called for a complete water system running from the Cedar River to reservoirs in Seattle. From the settling basin near the dam at Landsburg, the pipeline traveled 13.5 miles to Renton, generally following the ridge along the left bank of the Cedar River. From there it ran 8.5 miles to Seattle, entering the city near Spokane Street and Beacon Avenue. It continued along Beacon Avenue to 14th Avenue South, then to Holgate Street, and then ran along 13th Avenue South to Judkins Street. From there it traveled along 12th Avenue all the way to Volunteer Park (History Link 2001).

The Cedar River Pipeline Number One went into commission in 1901, delivering 22 million gallons of water per day (Mighetto and Montgomery 1998: 130). Almost as soon as the project was completed, additional water sources were needed. Between 1900 and 1910, Seattle's population continued to expand, taxing the existing pipeline during periods of high demand. On August 8, 1906, Ordinance 14116 provided a plan for a new Cedar River Pipeline Number Two and the project got underway the following year. The City awarded the new contract – also prepared by Thomson – on August 15, 1908. The new pipeline paralleled Number One, running approximately ten feet to the left of it, from the intake at Landsburg to Beacon Avenue and Forest Street, where engineers gave it a new route. Pipeline Number Two had 44,769,000 gallons daily delivery capacity and allowed the city to store 270 million gallons of water (McWilliams 1955: 67; History Link 2001).

As part of the Cedar River Pipeline Number Two project, the city passed Ordinance 17863 on January 1, 1908, authorizing the construction of two reservoirs on Beacon Hill (McWilliams 1955: 40). Over the next several years, workers constructed the two reservoirs – the North Beacon Hill Reservoir with a 61-million gallon capacity and the South Beacon Hill Reservoir with a 49-million gallon capacity [Figure 1]. These two structures went into service in 1911(Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001). Included in the reservoir designs for Jefferson Park was a small gatehouse (sometimes referred to as the chlorination house), located on the western side of the reservoirs between the two structures (Seattle Public Utilities Vault, Plans 53-80 Sheet F and 53-79 Sheet E). While its function has changed, the gatehouse remains in the park today. Today, Seattle features nine open reservoirs, all of which are incorporated with city parks. The oldest of these are Lincoln and Volunteer (1901); the newest is Lake Forest, constructed in 1962 (Seattle Public Utilities 2001).

City Engineer R.H. Thomson's name appears on the historic drawings for the Beacon Hill reservoirs and gatehouse dating from 1910 (Seattle Public Utilities Vault, Plans 53-80 Sheet F and 53-79 Sheet E). As the official City of Seattle Engineer, Thomson chief concerns were sewage, water, and electricity. During his tenure, he significantly altered the face of Seattle, leveling hills, straightening and dredging waterways, reclaiming tideflats, building sewers, sidewalks, tunnels and bridges, and paving roads. Thomson was instrumental in creating the Cedar River watershed, City Light, the Port of Seattle, and the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks. In fact, one source claimed that "virtually all of Seattle's infrastructure can be attributed to R.H. Thomson."

Thomson's involvement with the Cedar River began in the late 19th century, when he looked toward the watershed as an abundant source of clean water for generations to come. It was partly through his unyielding support of the project that the two pipelines were built and the system was

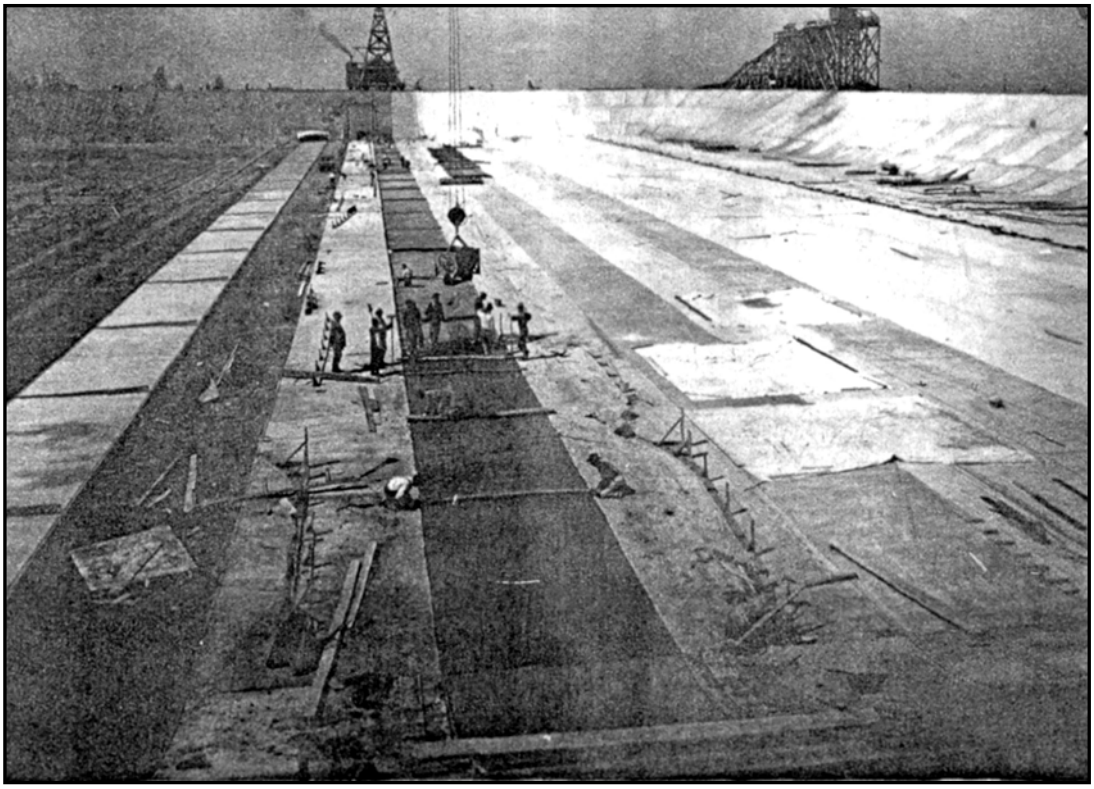

Figure 1. Construction of Beacon Hill Reservoir.

realized. Today, more than a century later, Seattle continues to receive water from the Cedar River Watershed. (History Link 2001).

Meanwhile, in 1909 the City of Seattle had transferred 137 acres east of Beacon Avenue that was not being used for the reservoir and pipeline facilities to the Park Department (Sherwood 1977). That year, the city established a stockade to house city jail inmates serving short sentences. Inmates worked off their sentences by clearing the land set aside for Jefferson Park [Figure 2] (History Link 2001). Two years later, in 1911, the Park Fund contributed $40,640 for the purchase of the southeast portion of the park (where the golf course would eventually be constructed), and a piece of land west of Beacon Avenue was turned over to the Park Department when abandoned as the City Stockade. On November 13, 1911, an ordinance transferred a portion of the property west of Beacon Avenue to the Board of Park Commissioners (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

After adjusting the plans to incorporate the reservoirs, J.C. Olmsted, the senior partner in the Olmsted Brothers' firm of Brookline, Massachusetts, produced a plan for Jefferson Park in 1912. Olmsted's plan proposed a golf course on the east side of Beacon Avenue, as well as a variety of recreation areas, a network of paths and roads, and infrastructure. While many aspects of the design were never implemented, the Olmsted Brothers' influence on the park is reflected most obviously in the golf course east of Beacon Avenue.

Figure 2. Prisoners Clearing the Land at Jefferson Park.
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Seattle in the late 19th Century

The second half of the 19th century saw a tremendous amount of change in the Puget Sound region. In that period, the city of Seattle was established. What started as a modest settlement on the shores of Elliot Bay grew into a major town during the 1880s and 1890s. Relying on its wealth of natural resources, Seattle became a center for the coal, lumber, and fishing industries. Despite several setbacks, including a fire and economic depression, the city generally prospered in these early years. Following the discovery of gold in the Klondike in 1897, the city's population exploded. The culmination of Seattle's golden era was the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, which the city hosted in 1909.

White settlers first arrived in the area in 1851 and soon built a village in what is now the Pioneer Square District. The settlement was named Seattle, honoring a Duwamish Indian leader named Sealth, who had befriended the settlers. The new town's principal source of economic support was Henry Yesler's lumber mill, located at the foot of Mill Street (now Yesler Way). Built in 1853, the mill provided lumber to the booming town of San Francisco, as well as to smaller towns throughout the Puget Sound region. When the Territorial legislature incorporated Seattle in 1869, there were more than 2,000 residents (Seattle Municipal Archives 2001).

The most significant event of the 1870s was the discovery of coal near Lake Washington, fostering the growth of another extractive industry whose primary outlet was San Francisco. But it was during the 1880s, that Seattle experienced its first great spurt of growth. Residents established a chamber of commerce in 1882, and five years later the Northern Pacific Railroad completed its transcontinental line to Tacoma, linking Puget Sound to eastern markets. Despite disappointment among Seattle's business leaders that their city was not selected, Seattle forged a connection with the railroad shortly after its completion. Furthermore, by 1888 a tunnel through the Stampede Pass, which cut through the Cascade Mountains, had allowed for direct rail service from eastern points to Seattle (Mighetto and Montgomery 1998:16; Seattle Municipal Archives 2001).

During the 1880s, lumber and coal continued to dominate the economy, but the growth of fishing, wholesale trade, shipbuilding, and shipping also contributed to the town's economic expansion. Maritime traffic – particularly to the Far North – also increased. In response, Seattle's population exploded. One estimate is that in the first half of 1889, Seattle gained 1,000 new

residents per month. In fact, from 1880 to 1889, the city's population increased from 3,500 to more than 43,000. A devastating fire on June 6, 1889, slowed Seattle's growth, but the city quickly recovered and rebuilt – this time using brick and stone rather than wood (Mighetto and Montgomery 1998: 16-19; Seattle Municipal Archives 2001).

The 1890s began favorably, with the rebuilding of the commercial district and continued expansion. James J. Hill's Great Northern Railway, which reached the Puget Sound Region in 1893, prompted further growth. In that same year, however, a serious economic downturn occurred due to unchecked speculation on Wall Street and the over expansion of railroads. It came to be known as the "Panic of 1893," and so dismal was the event that one historian dubbed it "the decade of misery" (Mighetto and Montgomery 1998: 20-21).

The discovery of gold in the Klondike in 1897 resuscitated Seattle's economy. The city was the dominant supplier of goods and services to Alaska and the Far North, and merchants benefited tremendously from outfitting and transporting the miners. In many ways, it was the Klondike Gold Rush that put Seattle on the map. "There is probably no city in the Union today so much talked about as Seattle and there is certainly none toward which more faces are at present turned," wrote *The Seattle Daily Times* in 1898. "From every nook and corner of America and from even the uttermost parts of the earth, a ceaseless, restless throng is moving – moving toward the land of the midnight sun and precious gold, and moving through its natural gateway – the far-famed City of Seattle" (Mighetto and Montgomery 1998: 39).

Responding to the prosperity of the times, between 1897 and 1900, the city increased from 56,842 to 80,671 residents. While the Gold Rush slowed in the years following 1897, Seattle retained its dominant connection to the Far North, and the city continued to supply Alaska with lumber, coal, food, clothing, and other goods throughout the 20th century. Recognizing the importance of this relationship and to commemorate the Gold Rush, Seattle hosted the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in 1909. This world's fair represented a "coming-of-age party" for the city, signaling the end of its pioneer era. The exposition drew nearly four million people and focused attention on the city and the region. According to historian Clarence Bagley, the fair demonstrated "the enormous value of Alaska to the United States and the greatness of its entry port, Seattle. The city's guests left the fair with the knowledge that Alaska was a golden possession and Seattle a growing metropolis" (Mighetto and Montgomery 1998: 103-108).

Seattle's Growing Park System

As the city's commerce boomed and the population grew, Seattle also began to develop its infrastructure, including a system of parks and boulevards. In 1884, civic leader David Denny donated a five-acre tract to the City of Seattle, stipulating that it be designated a public park. The site – originally called Seattle Park and later renamed Denny Park – was the first ordinance designated public park in the city (Sherwood, "Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation: Administrative History").

In 1887, Ordinance 874 created the Board of Park Commissioners, which consisted of three members to be appointed by council, each of whom served three-year terms. The legislation charged this unpaid body with all management responsibilities for Seattle's parks. The Board was expected to report to Council on a quarterly basis, making recommendations for improvements and the acquisition of new properties (Sherwood, "Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation: Administrative History").

Following the ordinance, in 1890 the city adopted its first home rule charter. In response to the city's growing population, the new charter mandated a dramatically larger city government comprised of 34 elected officials, 13 departments, and 6 regulatory commissions, including a Board of Park Commissioners. A park fund was also created, consisting of proceeds from the sale of bonds, gifts, appropriations made by Council, and ten percent of the gross receipts from all fines, penalties, and licenses (Sherwood, "Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation: Administrative History").

The new Board of Park Commissioners, appointed by the Mayor, consisted of five paid members, serving five-year terms. The Board continued to hold all management responsibilities, including the authority to appoint a superintendent and to negotiate for property. The Council, however, retained the authority to purchase property (Sherwood, "Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation: Administrative History").

In 1892, the Board appointed E.O. Schwagerl to be the second superintendent of parks. During the four years he served as superintendent, Schwagerl developed the first comprehensive plan for Seattle's parks. In this same period, Assistant City Engineer George F. Cotterill organized volunteers to construct 25 miles of bicycle paths – the change from a large to a smaller wheel had initiated a great boom in bicycle riding. In the mid-1890s, Seattle had 10,000 bicycles for a population of only 50,000 (Streatfield 1981). These bicycle routes were later utilized by the Olmsted Brothers' 1903 citywide plan (Sherwood, "Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation: Administrative History").

In 1896, Seattle adopted a new home-rule charter that redefined the Board of Park Commissioners as the Park Committee. This new body consisted of five unpaid appointees who reported annually to Council. In addition, all management responsibilities of the parks, including the authority to obtain new properties, were vested with the City Council. The charter eliminated the Superintendent of Parks position, whose responsibilities were assumed by the new Superintendent of Street, Sewers, and Parks – one of the three members of the Board of Public Works (Sherwood, "Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation: Administrative History").

One of City Council's most important decisions regarding the future of Seattle's parks was made in 1903, when the council adopted the Olmsted Brothers' plan to expand and develop a system of parks and boulevards. Meanwhile, the Charter was amended, re-establishing the Board of Park Commissioners and providing it with greater independence. Although the Council still held the authority to approve the purchase of property, the Board assumed all management responsibilities of the parks, as well as the exclusive authority to spend park fund monies. Furthermore, all park-related authority was removed from the Board of Public Works, and the Board of Park Commissioners elected to appoint a superintendent (Sherwood, "Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation: Administrative History").

During this period, the public embraced both the implementation of the new Olmsted plan as well as the new, empowered Board. This support was reflected in residents' willingness to financially back the city's park system. In 1905, Seattle passed a $500,000 park bond. This was followed by a one million bond in 1908, two million in 1910, and $500,000 in 1912 (Sherwood, "Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation: Administrative History").

Impacts of Urbanization: Back to Nature Movement in Late 19th Century

Seattle was not the only city to create a system of parks in the late 19th century. The development of Seattle's park system was linked to larger national trends involving public recreation in urban areas. The movement to establish city parks was fueled in part by anxiety over increasing urbanization, as the country shifted from an agrarian to an industrial society. The rapid growth of cities, including Seattle, alarmed some Americans, who worried that urban living and the severing of ties to nature would undermine traditional values, such as independence, resourcefulness, and physical strength. Such concerns were not new, dating back to the Romantic notion that nature is inherently good and that humans need contact with the natural world to sustain them (Schmitt 1969).

To reestablish society's relationship with nature, a growing number of Americans turned to the outdoors, sparking the nation's first "Back to Nature" movement. This movement promoted the establishment of city parks that would provide a respite for weary urban dwellers. Carefully planned vegetation and landscaping would simultaneously soothe frayed nerves and renew and invigorate visitors' spirits. In addition to their psychological impact, city parks would provide opportunities for recreation and exercise that was otherwise lacking in the urban environment. Finally, the Back to Nature movement believed that a system of city parks would provide a focal point in communities where people could socialize in an otherwise fragmented urban environment (Schmitt 1969). According to Frederick Law Olmsted, one of the leading landscape architects of the late 19th century, scenic beauty had a favorable influence on the "health and vigor" of city dwellers. As he explained, "The enjoyment of scenery employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it; tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it; and thus, through the influence of the mind over the body, gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration to the whole system" (Nash 1967).

Olmsted's Vision

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) was the leading landscape architect of the post civil war generation and the father of American landscape architecture. Over his lifetime he designed more than 50 projects – most notably New York's Central Park – and created a firm that dominated the profession until World War II. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, he moved to the New York City area in 1848 and finally settled in Brookline, Massachusetts in the early 1880s (Beveridge 1989).

Through his work, Olmsted sought to improve American society. He envisioned the creation of public institutions of culture and recreation, including parks, which would be available to all people. He also tried to foster "communitiveness" – a sense of shared community and dedicated service. In Olmsted's view, the role of a landscape architect was to shape the American city, by designing parks and park systems that met a wide range of recreational needs (Beveridge 1989).

Over the course of his career, Olmsted was exposed to a wide variety of influences, one of which was the "Back to Nature" movement and its ideals. Olmsted had an ambiguous attitude toward cities. On the one hand, he viewed city life as a manifestation of the progress of civilization. The city provided culture, refinement, sociability, and wealth. It offered conveniences, comforts, and opportunities that were not available in small towns and rural areas. Cities, however, could also be dirty, crowded, hectic, and lacking in the communal ties of the countryside. The challenge was to both preserve the city and reform it (Wilson 1989: 19; Fisher 1986: 93).

To this end, Olmsted sought to provide city dwellers with an antidote to urban stresses through aesthetics. To restore city dwellers repressed sensibilities, he proposed to create naturalistic parks in the midst of cities. To Olmsted, a city park provided an oasis from the noise and activity of the city streets. Within the confines of a park, a visitor could enjoy sunshine, pure air, and tranquility. He envisioned parks as respites from stifling dwellings. For the poorer classes "who have no opportunity to spend their summers in the country," a city park was an accessible refreshment (Fisher 1986: 102).

To achieve an urban refuge, Olmsted designed parks with free-flowing lines – the antithesis of the gridiron design of the city. While attempting to create a space wholly unlike its surroundings, Olmsted also attempted to integrate parks into the city by designing parks that radiated into urban areas and blended with city's morphology. "Park and city would be a complimentary duality, yet should be synthesized into an organic whole for the community," explained Irving Fisher in his book *Frederick Law Olmsted and the City Planning Movement in the United States*.

Perhaps Olmsted's most important objective for his parks was that they renew a sense of community to alienated city inhabitants and restore wholeness to fragmented psyches. Whereas people were suspicious of one another on city streets, in a city park Olmsted believed that the poor and rich, freed from the daily routine of discipline and formality, came together in larger numbers than anywhere else to enjoy the beauty of the park and each other "in more complete sympathy than they enjoy anything else together." He observed, "In all my life I have never seen such joyous collections of people." In Olmsted's view, the park was an aesthetic instrument to achieve a social and psychological change in a business-oriented, urban society. In explaining his design for Mount Royal, Olmsted insisted the following:

> It is a great mistake to suppose that the value of charming natural scenery lies wholly in the inducement which the enjoyment of it presents to change of mental occupation, exercise, and air-taking. Beside and above this, it acts in a more directly remedial way to enable men to better resist the harmful influences of ordinary town life, and recover what they lose from them. It is thus, in medical phrase, a prophylactic and therapeutic agent of vital value; there is not one in the apothecaries' shops as important to the health and strength or to the earning and tax-paying capacities of a large city. And to the mass of the people, it is practically available only through such means as provided through parks.

Olmsted was convinced that the beauty he created in a park possessed an "influence of the highest curative value" (Fisher 1986: 103-107).

John Charles Olmsted and the Seattle Park System

While Frederick Law Olmsted did not create plans for Seattle's Jefferson Park, his ideas and vision were undoubtedly shared by John Charles (J. C.) Olmsted, the principal designer of Jefferson Park. The stepson and nephew of Frederick Law Olmsted, J.C. was a senior partner in Olmsted Brothers' firm located in Brookline, Massachusetts. A prolific landscape architect in his own right, J.C. Olmsted carried on his stepfather's naturalistic traditions, many of which were reflected in his design for a system of parks and boulevards for Seattle (Levee 1989).

In 1903, on the recommendation of the Board of Park Commissioners, the City Council contracted with the Olmsted Brothers to conduct a thorough survey of Seattle's park possibilities

and to submit a comprehensive plan that could be used to guide future work. According to historian William H. Wilson, the push for comprehensive park planning resulted from the1902 convergence of four major events. First, the University of Washington negotiated with the Olmsted Brothers to produce a plan for its new campus, which would bring a representative of the firm to the city. Secondly, around the same time, the park commissioners became aware that their rival – Portland, Oregon – had approached the Olmsted Brothers for a park and boulevard system plan. Third, Elbert F. Blaine, a dynamic local real estate man, proponent of a park and boulevard system and of a strong legal authority for the park board, joined the board in 1902 and became president in July. Finally, Seattle's neighborhood improvement clubs supported the notion (Wilson 1989:149-150).

In addition, Seattle was in a good position during this period to begin a comprehensive park plan. Flush with money from the Klondike Gold Rush and preparing for the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Seattle's residents were ready to beautify the city. A full page article in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* in 1903 declared, "Let Us Make a Beautiful City of Seattle," urging the city to acquire more land and develop a park system (History Link 2001).

J.C. Olmsted and his assistant Percy Jones began the first of a series of visits to Seattle in April of 1903. Accompanied by a host of park commissioners, Olmsted and Jones spent the month of May surveying the city by horse, trolley, foot, and boat (History Link 2001). On his visits, Olmsted was struck by the city's natural advantages and saw great potential for a park system. "Seattle possesses extraordinary landscape advantages in having a great abundance and variety of water views and views of wooded hills and distant mountains and snow-capped peaks," he observed. "It also possesses within its boundaries, or close to them, some valuable remains of the original evergreen forests which covered the whole country, and which, aside from the grand size of some of the trees composing them, have a very dense and beautiful undergrowth." Olmsted believed that the goal of the park plan should be to capture these qualities. "In designing a system of parks and parkways the primary aim should be to secure and preserve for the use of the people as much as possible of these advantages of water and mountain views and woodlands, well distributed and conveniently located" (Olmsted Brothers 1905:1).

Olmsted did recognize several limitations to creating a park system in Seattle. He pointed out that the city's spectacularly scenic landscape would exact penalties. The abrupt hills and steep slopes would require heavy construction work, while the expense of bridging waterways ensured that boulevard traffic would have to enter major commercial streets and mingle with commercial traffic before returning to a boulevard route. Olmsted also had to consider how to incorporate existing parks into the system (there were five major ones when he came to the city – Denny, Kinnear, Woodland, Volunteer, and Washington), as well as addressing the city's need for some forms of active recreation. (Wilson 1989: 153). Perhaps most importantly, Olmsted recognized the changing real estate market and urged the city to move swiftly to acquire as much land as possible, especially "all the borders of the different bodies of water" (History Link 2001).

The Olmsted Brothers' firm sent its formal report to the city on July 2, 1903; on October 19 of that year the City Council approved J.C. Olmsted's "A Comprehensive System of Parks and Parkways." Although the plan remained in the tradition of the naturalistic park system, it was shaped in part by the earlier contributions of E.O. Schwagerl and George F. Cotterill, as well as by the parks that already existed. Olmsted's plan incorporated the big parks – Volunteer, Washington, and Woodland – into a 20 mile-long linked park and boulevard system that skirted

the shoreline and bluffs of Lake Washington, climbed inland through the University of Washington campus to Ravenna Park, continued west to Green Lake and Woodland Park, swung southwest to Queen Anne Hill, around it and through Interbay to the Magnolia bluffs, ending at Fort Lawton. The plan also called for spur roads to connect Beacon Hill Park (Jefferson Park) to Lake Washington Boulevard at Mt. Baker Park. A second link went from Washington Park along Interlaken Boulevard with forks to Volunteer Park and Roanoke Park (History Link 2001).

In keeping with the naturalistic tradition, Olmsted tried to work with the topography and the native vegetation. He attempted to create variety among the parks, believing that the "different parks of the city should not be made to look as much like each other as possible, but on the contrary every advantage should be taken of differing conditions to give each one a distinct individuality of its own." In response to the emerging concept of public recreation that had been introduced with success in the East, Olmsted promoted a new concept – playgrounds. In his 1908 supplemental report, which addressed the recently annexed lands of Ballard, Columbia, West Seattle, and South Seattle, he recommended locating small parks and playgrounds, in conjunction with local schools, within a half-mile of every home and aimed at young children and women with babies. For older children, the Olmsted Brothers' firm supported additional playgrounds and outdoor gymnasiums. These sites included buildings devoted to recreation (field houses) and facilities such as ball fields, tennis courts, and playground apparatus (History Link 2001; Streatfield 1981; Sherwood, "The Olmsted Brothers Plan").

Seattle citizens responded favorably to the plan. In the eight years following the original proposal, residents passed bonds totaling $3.5 million for park enhancement. Through direct purchase, condemnation, and gifting, the city acquired Cowen, Frink, Schmitz, Leschi, Madrona, Colman, Ravenna, Green Lake, and Seward Parks, doubling Seattle's parklands to more than 1,000 acres (History Link 2001).

J.C. Olmsted and Jefferson Park

As part of his initial survey work, J.C. Olmsted visited the site that was to become Jefferson Park. His first trip to the city reservation was on May 8, 1903. In his field notes he recorded the following observations about the site: "Went in afternoon to city reservation on Beacon Hill. It is a large area of about 240 acres, and has been cut over and part of it cleared and burnt over. The pest house is located there. They are talking of using a portion of it for a cemetery. There is a pipeline and road which cuts it in two portions; one might be used for this purpose, and the other for a park. If cleared, it would make a fine plaisted, as it is comparatively flat and could be easily graded to a good surface. Some good glimpses of Lake Washington can be obtained by a little cutting." (Files of Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, J.C. Olmsted Field Notes, May 8, 1903).

Olmsted understood the significance of creating a park for the southern portion of the city and recognized the potential of the Beacon Hill site. In his 1903 report, he observed that, "The portion of the city south of Madison street is at present comparatively lacking in regard to parks. Beacon Hill Park is south of the boundary of the city, and not having been at all improved, is but little known and still less used." Olmsted continued, with his plans for the area. "By the scheme proposed there will be in this section of the city a local park or playground nearly in its center, and there will be a playground at Jefferson street" (Olmsted Brothers 1905: 50).

More specifically, Olmsted discussed his vision for Beacon Hill or Jefferson Park. In his report, he begins with a description of the existing site. "This is a tract of unimproved land, about

115 acres in extent, lying east of the pipe line road on Beacon Hill," he wrote. "All of the original forest trees that had any market value have disappeared, and the stumps and logs which have not been consumed by fire are gradually being taken away for firewood. There are a few large cedars and some fair-sized hemlocks left, and some patches of second-growth fir. So much of the surface as is not denuded by fire is covered with the remains of the wild forest undergrowth" (Olmsted Brothers 1905: 83-84).

Examining the area, Olmsted envisioned a ball field on the level part of the site, framed with wild vegetation. "The northern part of the park being wider, and containing more nearly level land, would best be cleared and graded and smoothed and covered with grass for ball games," he recommended. "A good deal of the existing wild growths should be preserved along the borders to frame in and beautify the ball field" (Olmsted Brothers 1905: 83-84).

Olmsted then discussed plans for the roadways that would intersect the park:

> If the proposed Beacon Hill Parkway is accomplished, a drive will be required from the northeast corner, gradually ascending the steep slope and crossing the narrow level land at the south end of the park to the pipe line road. Another drive may enter at the northwest corner, and keeping near to or in the north border plantation run easterly to the top of the steep slope, and descending gradually in a southeasterly direction join the drive previously recommended. The pipe line road should eventually be widened so that there will be at least two separate driveways, one for the ordinary commercial traffic and the other for pleasure driving, and if it should be desired to have a speedway on this hill there should be a third driveway in the middle. There does not appear to be need of other drives in this park (Olmsted Brothers 1905: 83-84).

By incorporating a network of roads for Jefferson Park, Olmsted acknowledged the significance of the automobile in American society and the importance of accessibility. During the early 20th century, pleasure driving had become a popular leisure time activity for those who could afford both the purchase and upkeep of an automobile (Dulles 1965: 312-318).

In addition to creating pathways for automobile traffic, Olmsted also pondered how people would move through and around the park. In describing the park's circulation system, Olmsted carefully considered the role of plantings to provide contrasts between sections of the park, as well as to enhance the park's views.

> There should be a main circuit walk skirting the borders of the play field and in the southern part of the park, having several loops and branches wandering among groves of trees. The southern portion of the park should be made to contrast with the larger open northern part, by having little or no grass, the surface being clothed with low, ground-covering plants. There may be long winding masses of trees and shrubbery, the trees in the middle of the masses and surrounded by tall shrubs, and each mass being bordered by smaller shrubs, so as to produce the effect of irregular mounds of foliage. Some walks may be carried through under the groups of trees, but most of the paths should be carried through the openings between the masses of trees and shrubbery, so as to afford views of the exterior surface of the masses of foliage. At suitable places vistas between the plantations should be arranged to command the distant views of Lake Washington (Olmsted Brothers 1905: 83-84).

J.C. Olmsted's plans for a pedestrian circulation system in Jefferson Park reflected the principles of his stepfather, Frederick Law Olmsted. The senior Olmsted believed that park scenery should have a calming effect to mitigate the stresses of urban life. To achieve this sense of calm, he separated different landscape themes and conflicting uses and subordinated individual elements in the landscape to the overall design. In Frederick Law Olmsted's parks, "carefully constructed walks and drives flow through the landscape with gentle grades and easy curves, requiring a viewer's minimal attention to the process of movement" (Beveridge 1989: 41). J.C. Olmsted gave this same attention to movement in his plans for Jefferson Park.

In addition to using plants to reveal views and guide pedestrians, Olmsted believed that they should be used to differentiate among parks. At Jefferson Park, he regarded the sandy soil as an opportunity to realize this goal. "The soil of this park is more sandy than appears to be the case with many of the other parks, and a selection of plants somewhat based on this idea may be used to distinguish the plantations from those of the other parks" (Olmsted Brothers 1905: 84).

Finally, Olmsted made a couple of suggestions regarding infrastructure: "A shelter house for toilet conveniences will be required, and this may be arranged so that the veranda will overlook the ball field. This shelter would be most convenient if located near the north border plantation, and would look best about opposite the middle of the ball field" (Olmsted Brothers 1905: 84). Like his stepfather and mentor, Frederick Law Olmsted, J.C. Olmsted recognized the need for active recreational areas. Rather than drawing attention to the structures needed to support these sites, he attempted to merge them into the larger landscape (Beveridge 1989: 41).

While the 1903 report presented some general ideas for Jefferson Park, it was not until 1912 that the Olmsted Brothers firm produced a more detailed "preliminary plan" for the site. In October of 1911, Olmsted revisited the park to begin design work. By that time, the two reservoirs had been built, altering the landscape considerably. Additionally, city officials informed Olmsted that "the main purpose of this park would be for a golf ground." Although the theme and infrastructure within the park had changed, Olmsted remained impressed by its views, writing that the pleasure drive he planned may "lead to some places … from which the fine views may be enjoyed." Recognizing that future growth would be an issue, Olmsted reminded city officials that "one or more additions [to the park] may be needed to prevent houses and trees from shutting off all views" (Files of Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, Notes from J.C. Olmsted, October 6, 1911). The park's hilltop location provided spectacular vistas of the waters of Puget Sound and mountains, reminding visitors of the nature that surrounded the city.

In the preliminary plan, dated February 5, 1912, Olmsted presented a vision of a park that combined both active and passive recreation [Figure 3]. On the east side of Beacon Avenue, Olmsted planned a 9-hole golf course, containing a shelter, automobile concourse, man-made pond, and pergola. For Beacon Avenue, the existing thoroughfare that divided the park lands into two roughly equal halves, Olmsted showed two lanes of traffic divided by a central median. The sidewalks on the east and west sides of Beacon Avenue, as well as the central median were all to be lined on both sides with evenly spaced trees. The plan also called for a "street railway shelter," within the Beacon Avenue median, to accommodate the trolley that ran up and down that street. Olmsted anticipated that "the larger number of visitors will arrive at the park at that point" (Olmsted Brothers, Jefferson Park Preliminary Plan, February 5, 1912; Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Olmsted Brothers to J.W. Thompson, November

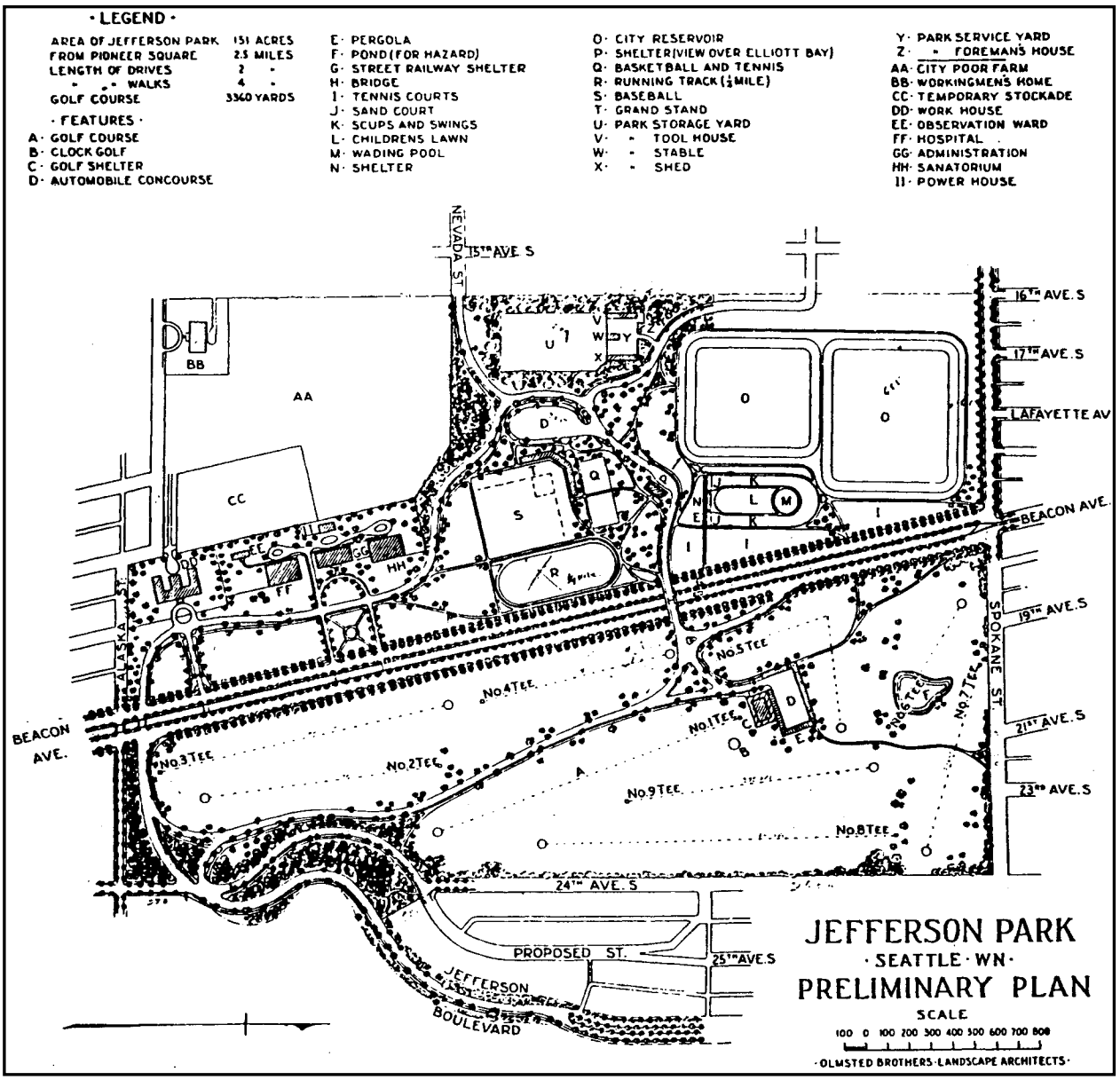

Figure 3. Olmsted Brothers Preliminary Plan, 1912.

22, 1912). Concerning Spokane Street west of Beacon, Olmsted wrote, "Our idea was to have a 40-foot driveway, four tree strips 11 feet wide, and two cement concrete walks 8 feet wide. Also, the City should condemn a building limit easement on the adjoining private property 29 feet wide if possible."

On the west side of Beacon Avenue, Olmsted worked a variety of recreational facilities into the vacant lands located between the reservoirs at the north end of the park and the workingmen's home, city poor farm and temporary stockade at the south end. These included tennis courts, a sand court, a children's playground (including swings and scups, a lawn for games and a wading pool), a basketball court, a running track, and a baseball field with grandstand. Olmsted planned

for the children's playground to be enclosed by a three-and-a-half or four foot iron picket fence. To make the fence "unobtrusive," he suggested that it be "covered with *Rosa wichuraiana* or some other creeper which can be kept clipped in the form of a hedge."

To capture the views of Elliot Bay to the northeast, Olmsted placed a shelter on the high point within the park, south of the reservoirs. He also oriented one of the pathways around the children's play area to "command a view over the reservoirs of the Sound and distant mountains." In the southwest portion of the park, between the area used for the poor farm and Beacon Ave., he included plans for city health and welfare facilities, including a work house, hospital, observation house, sanatorium and administration building (Olmsted Brothers, Jefferson Park Preliminary Plan, February 5, 1912; Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Olmsted Brothers to J.W. Thompson, November 22, 1912).

A system of roads and pedestrian footpaths would link the various activity areas within the park. On the east edge of the park, an automobile drive was planned from 24th Avenue south, winding its way around a wooded ravine, connecting with Jefferson (Cheasty) Boulevard. From a Y-shaped intersection, a branch would lead north through the middle of the golf course to a "golf shelter" and parking area located on the highest elevation within the course.

In order to connect the activity areas west of Beacon Ave. with the golf course on the east side, Olmsted proposed a bridge over Beacon Ave. On the west side of Beacon, a road would extend westward from the bridge past the overlook shelter and then swing southward past an "automobile concourse" or parking lot. The road continued southeast, past the proposed hospital/sanatorium/work house area to intersect Beacon Ave, just north of Alaska St. and to connect with Jefferson (Cheasty) Boulevard (Sherwood 1977). A system of pedestrian trails led from the vicinity of the automobile concourse to the various recreational facilities. Judging from the size of the parking areas, Olmsted likely anticipated that a majority of the park users would access the area on foot or by trolley.

This multi-use park plan exemplified Olmsted's philosophy of park design. By carefully grouping certain types of activities, he tried to avoid conflicting uses. Active recreational areas were concentrated in specific zones of the park; winding walkways, lined with vegetation, would lead visitors through the various elements of the park and highlight the views of surrounding scenery. By having space for both active and passive recreation, the plan would accommodate a diversity of users, and its cleverly designed circulation network would successfully link pre-existing facilities as well as tie park access to the existing system of city streets.

Unfortunately, many of the elements of the Olmsted plan were never implemented. In fact, the only major component that was carried out was the golf course east of Beacon Avenue – which was built as an 18-hole not 9-hole course. Features of Beacon Avenue, such as the rows of trees and the center strip, can also be seen today. Finally, sections of the original pedestrian circulation routes are in evidence today; however, they are often bifurcated by buildings or infrastructure.[1]

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[1] It should be noted that a Kroll maps produced for the area in 1914 and 1920 show many features of the Olmsted Plan, such as the children's lawn, wading pool, and running track. The map does not, however, reflect on-the-ground conditions at the site. Rather it is simply a reproduction of the Olmsted plan.

3.2 Early 20th-Century Development of Jefferson Park: 1913-1940

The period from 1913 through 1940 featured many significant developments in the history of Jefferson Park. Following completion of the Olmsted Brothers' preliminary plan for Jefferson Park, the city never completed a master plan for the site. As a result, the development of the park proceeded on a piecemeal basis, sometimes subject to the influence of a few. The park's history thus can best be traced along chronological as opposed to thematic lines. During this period, the city constructed golf facilities for the park, including an 18-hole and 9-hole course, as well as associated buildings and structures. The 18-hole course opened in 1915; the 9-hole in 1923. Since that time, golf has remained an important activity, drawing local residents, student golfers, and tournament players to the park.

Building the park's infrastructure was not the only significant event linked to this era. Looking at the various groups who used the park also exposes a crucial component of the park's history. During the 1920s, Japanese-American residents began to use the park for picnics and related leisure activities. For them, the park offered the opportunity to gather together as a community and enjoy outdoor recreation. In the 1930s, however, some members of the Beacon Hill community pressured the Park Department to remove the picnic grounds and push the Japanese-American community out of the park. The outbreak of World War II further intensified the hostility toward Japanese-Americans. While the Park Department initially supported the Japanese-American's right to use the picnic grounds, eventually the area was put to another use.

Initial development of the Park

In 1912, the sport of golf was still a relatively new phenomenon in America, growing rapidly in popularity. Appreciation for the sport led a group of Seattle citizens to advance the concept that golf should be available to the public at an affordable price. In particular, E.C. Cheasty and Sherwood Gillespy are credited with promoting Jefferson Park as the site for Seattle's first municipal course. Cheasty served on the Park Board from 1907-1910 and 1912-1914, where he adamantly pushed for a golf course at Jefferson Park. Sherwood Gillespy – often referred to as the "father of municipal golf in Seattle" – joined Cheasty in the effort to establish a course.

The efforts of Cheasty and Gillespy were successful, and on May 12, 1915, an 18-hole golf course, rather than the 9-hole course planned by Olmsted, opened to the public in Jefferson Park. As indicated in the Olmsted Brothers preliminary plan, the course occupied all of the parkland located east of Beacon Ave. The course included a pond for a water hazard in approximately the same area as proposed in the preliminary plan, but the configuration of the holes and fairways was substantially different. In addition, the small golf shelter proposed by the Olmsted Brothers, which was to be located within the course east of Beacon Ave., was not built. Rather, a golf clubhouse was built on the west side of Beacon Avenue. This clubhouse was a frame, U-shaped building, with a shingled roof and walls and a front porch overlooking a lawn along Beacon Avenue.

During the first year that the course was open, 26,000 golfers used the Jefferson Park course, with a daily average of 112 players (Sherwood 1977). To honor Gillespy's work on behalf of the sport and particularly his advocacy of the Jefferson Park course, his friends commissioned Max Nielson of Denmark to design a statue of Gillespy, which was placed in front of the park's golf clubhouse around 1915 [Figure 4] (Sherwood 1977).

On December 11, 1917, golf enthusiasts formed the Jefferson Park Golf Club, an organization composed of players who held annual tickets for the course. According to the group's yearbook from 1918, the club, consisting of 163 players, was organized with three main purposes: "First, to work for the preservation and betterment of the municipal course; second, to organize and direct tournament and other competitive play on the course; third to furnish to promising players who do not have membership in a golf club affiliated with other such clubs the opportunity to qualify in tournaments held by these organizations" (Jefferson Park Golf Club Year Book, 1918-1919).

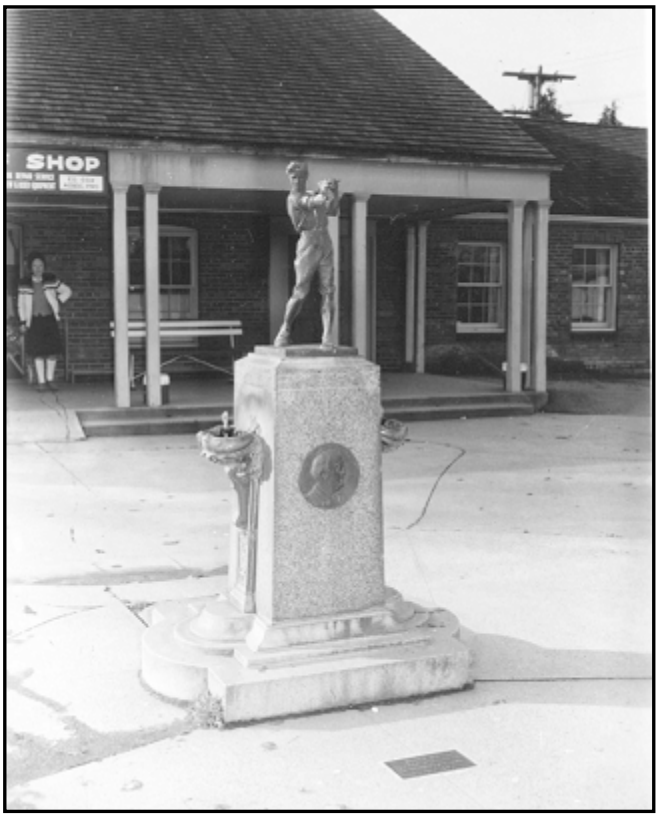

Figure 4. Statue of Sherwood Gillespy, 1950.
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In the yearbook the golf club extolled the many virtues of the Jefferson Park course. In particular, club members stressed the course's accessibility and views. "The site comprises 101 acres and is beautifully situated in Jefferson Park, on Beacon Hill, in the south central part of the city about two miles from the business center, and can be reached in fifteen minutes by street car" (Jefferson Park Golf Club Year Book, 1918-1919). As the club members mentioned, streetcars played an important role in bringing visitors to the park. According to Don Sherwood, a Park Department employee who chronicled the history of the park, "The Workingman's transportation to the Golf Course was largely by means of the Trolley car system – the main transfer point being at Pioneer Square…." Indeed for many years, trolley car line No. 12 brought the city's residents to the park. Prior to 1929, the trolley service terminated at Snoqualmie Street and Beacon Avenue. Apparently, the residential area south of Jefferson Park was not yet large enough to warrant trolley car service. In 1929, however, residential growth prompted the extension of the trolley line south along Beacon Avenue to Graham Street (Blanchard 1965). "No longer did the 'trolley-car-golfers' have to walk from Spokane St. to the Clubhouse," wrote Sherwood, and trolley cars remained an important means of transportation until service ended in 1941. Cars provided another form of transport to the park. During the 1920s and 1930s, an increasing number of Americans owned automobiles, many of which could be seen parked in the center median of Beacon Avenue (Sherwood 1977).

Writing about the surrounding scenery, the yearbook stated that the course "occupies the crest of a wide ridge 350 feet above the level of Puget Sound, commanding a panoramic view on all sides embracing a variety of landscape ranging from the quiet beauty of lake and valley to the majestic grandeur of ocean and snowcapped mountains." The book pointed out that the course was "marked on the south by Mr. Rainier, on the east and to the north by the Cascade range, and

on the west by the rugged Olympics" (Jefferson Park Golf Club Year Book, 1918-1919). The stunning view was an important feature of the Jefferson Park Golf Course from its inception [Figures 5 and 6].

Operating the Jefferson Park Golf Course was a full-time job. Greeting the golfers was Joseph Jefferson, who served as the golf professional for Jefferson Park from 1915 to 1944. When Jefferson first arrived, "the game was new [to municipal players] and most of the people … had hardly the faintest idea of how to hold a club," he explained to *The Seattle Times* in 1940. "Those were the palmy days for the Pro and lessons were booked weeks in advance." Jefferson's job entailed supervising employees, enforcing rules, selling balls and clubs, and managing tournaments. In 1916 the city added a ranger to patrol the course and supervise play. By 1926, that number had increased to 175,914, prompting the city to hire a golf manager to assist Jefferson (Sherwood 1977).

One of the buildings associated with the golf course and Joseph Jefferson was a structure that dated to the construction of the reservoirs. When the reservoirs were under construction in 1908, workers erected a 14-by-24-foot shed to use as an office and for storing tools. After the Water Department completed work on the reservoirs, the Park Department acquired the shed and moved it onto Park property, where it was located next to the reservoir fence at the southeast corner of the park. There it was used as a caddy house for a short time after the course opened.

Figure 5. Mt. Rainier from Jefferson Park Golf Course, 1918.

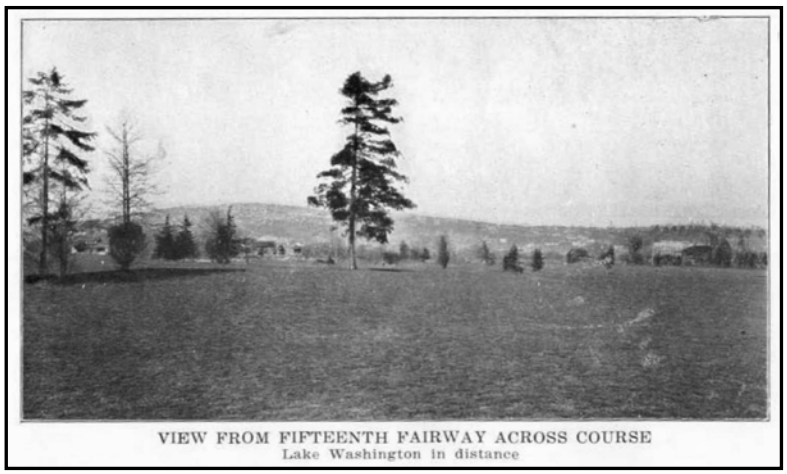

Figure 6. View of Lake Washington from Jefferson Park Golf Course, 1918.
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During World War I, however, the city experienced a housing shortage due to the influx of wartime workers, and the shed/caddy house became a home for Joseph Jefferson. He made various improvements to the building, occupying it from 1916 until his retirement in 1944. Four years later, the house became the lawn bowlers' clubhouse [Figure 7]. It served that purpose until 1970, when it was destroyed and a new clubhouse was built (Sherwood 1977).

In its early days, maintaining the golf course proved to be a challenge. An inadequate water system necessitated the watering of the course by using "several lengths of hose." Grazing animals and prisoners from the Stockade served as mowers. Unpaved driveways continually kicked up dust and were extremely rough (Sherwood 1977).

Figure 7. Lawn Bowling Clubhouse (former residence of Joseph Jefferson), 1955.
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During this period, the golf course's vegetation was fairly new, and many plantings still needed to be added. In 1917, James Frederick Dawson – who worked for the Olmsted Brothers firm – visited Jefferson Park, making a number of recommendations to that end. He focused primarily on the landscaping of the golf course, suggesting that an irregular boundary should be planted with fairly thick undergrowth to screen out neighboring development. "It is important that the north and east boundaries of this park should be planted with trees and shrubs in the form of an irregular boundary plantation," he wrote. "It will be a very short time before the property next to these boundaries will be built up with houses, and when this happens it will be disagreeable to

the people using the golf course to be in full view of a lot of houses." Dawson also observed that the plantings around the fairways were "too thin." He suggested adding evergreens and low-growing shrubs to make a dense thicket. "This would make it more interesting, and more important for the golfers to keep in the fairways, as they would be penalized if they drove into such a thicket," he pointed out. Dawson wanted additional trees at many of the fairways and in general pressed for the plantings to be done in irregular not straight patterns, insisting that "the landscape effect would be better." Some of the specific trees and shrubs he suggested included the following: dogwoods, hawthorns, flowering crab apples, honeysuckle, and wild grape. In several instances he recommended that native vegetation should be used. Finally, Dawson believed that most of the greens were too flat, pointing out that "it would be more interesting, particularly to the golfer, if these greens were more undulating" (Files of Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, Report of Olmsted Brothers for 1917).

Dawson's commitment to the principles of J.C. Olmsted was reflected in his suggestion for using native vegetation, his preference for irregular and meandering plantings, and his insistence on creating an oasis from the surrounding neighborhood through the use of screening trees and shrubs. It is difficult to determine if Dawson's recommendations were followed. However, it is the case that a dense band of vegetation occurs on both the north and south edges of the course and along the east edge of Beacon Ave. Additionally, a single line of Lombardy poplars provides a buffer between the private homes located adjacent to the east edge of the course.

In addition to the development of the 18-hole golf course, other changes were made to the park's infrastructure during the initial period of development. In 1914 a greenhouse was built in the shop area at 16th and Dakota. In 1915 the Park Department had built clay tennis courts. The clay surface, however, proved slippery on wet days and was difficult to maintain, leading to the abandonment of the courts in 1934 (Sherwood 1977). Also in 1915, the city hospital/pest house and workingmen's home were closed and burned down (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001). In 1918, the construction of a hospital for World War I veterans suffering from venereal diseases was begun in the same location where the previous hospital had been (Sherwood 1977; History Link 2001). The community, however, protested the plan. "It must be very evident to you that no one desires to live in close proximity to a venereal hospital," complained one resident in a letter to the mayor. "Any residential portion of the city would vigorously oppose the erection of this hospital in its vicinity" (From the files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter to the Mayor, December 4, 1918). The community's opposition was successful, and the hospital was relocated to a different site (Sherwood 1977).

Budget cuts in 1918 led to the abandonment of the stockade, which was soon removed and the property transferred to the Park Department. These 60 acres, plus the 11 acres that were set aside for the hospital, provided the space for the city to expand the golf facilities by adding a nine new holes. The new course was located between Nevada Street, Alaska Street, 16th Avenue, and Beacon Avenue. The course was a "long" nine holes with 3195 yards; the first nine holes of the 18-hole course were only 3129 yards. The city completed the new nine-hole course in the spring of 1923. Golf had become so popular by this time that, only a year after the new nine opened, Park Superintendent J.A. Jackson wrote, "The probabilities are that … additional ground will be sought to make the [new] 9 hole course an 18 hole course." By 1924, attendance had risen to 125,251 players. Men and women from the local community utilized the course, as well as local high school teams. For the expansion, the Park Department considered the area containing the greenhouse grounds and the property west of 16th Avenue and to the south. This

development may explain why in 1928 the greenhouse was removed and the nursery stock transplanted elsewhere (Sherwood 1977).

While the golf courses were doing a booming business, the golf clubhouse suffered a less auspicious fate. On December 1, 1919, a fire started in the frame clubhouse, burning it to the ground. The city built a new clubhouse immediately, completing it by 1920. The new clubhouse featured office space; a refreshment and lunchroom, "where lunches and dinners are served at all hours from sunrise to sunset … at reasonable prices;" a proshop; and two locker rooms – one for men and one for women. The clubhouse was H-shaped, with an open patio in the front and the Gillespy statue placed in the center of the patio [Figure 8] (Sherwood 1977).

Figure 8. Golf Clubhouse, 1920.
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Not everyone was pleased by the city's rapid rebuilding of the golf clubhouse. On April 26, 1920 the Whittier Parent Teacher Association wrote to the Park Board to express concern that "the Park Board is anticipating the building of another club house on the Jefferson golf links, the building of which would absorb the balance of the play ground fund intended for the maintenance of recreational activities." Feeling "this would be an injustice to the children of our city," the association "desires to enter its protest against the carrying out of the proposition at this time." The Interlake Parent Teacher Association filed a similar letter (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Whittier Parent Teacher Association to Honorable Commissioners of Park Board, April 26, 1920; Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Interlake Parent Teacher Association to Board of Park Commissioners, April 26, 1920). These letters demonstrate that Jefferson Park supported a wide range of recreational activities, drawing a diverse body of local residents. At times, however, divergent interests erupted into conflict – an issue that continues in the park today.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, a series of new structures were established in the park. In 1927 the Commercial Construction Company built a fire station at the corner of Spokane Street and Beacon Avenue [Figure 9] (Sherwood 1977; Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use, Permit 273003).[2] Historically, the City Architect designed Seattle's fire stations. From 1912 to 1921, for example, Daniel R. Huntington held the post and was responsible for at least ten firehouses in the city. Furthermore, Huntington employed a variety of styles for his fire stations in an attempt to blend the buildings into their respective neighborhoods. It is likely that the

[2] In 1985 an additional wing was added to the fire station. See plan 628559 #2 from the Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use.

Beacon Hill fire station was also designed by the City Architect during the 1920s, continuing the tradition of reflecting the unique characteristics of the Beacon Hill neighborhood (Ochsner 1994: 115).

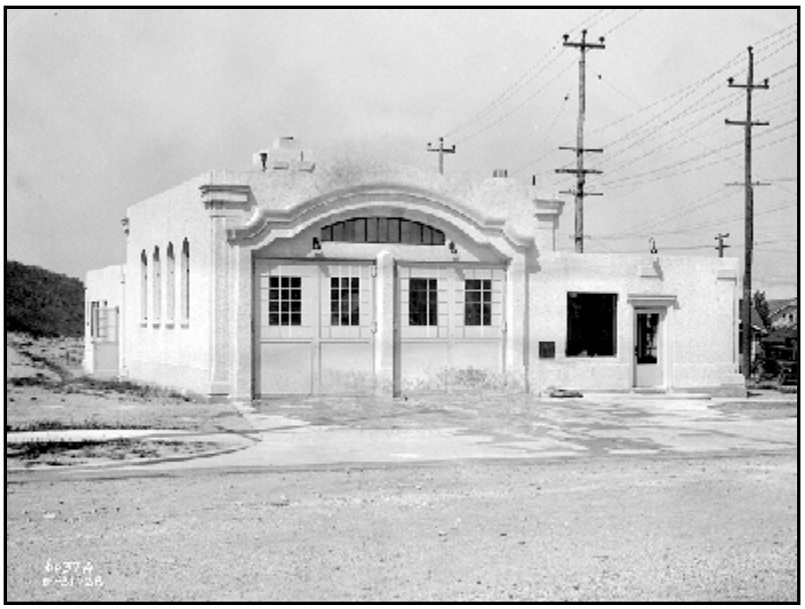

Figure 9. Beacon Hill Fire Station, 1928.

►►►

In 1929, increasing use of the playfield – due to the growth of the residential area around Jefferson Park – prompted the city to replace the old comfort station with a brick shelter house, containing a room for indoor games or club meetings, a "cheery" fireplace, and a small kitchenette. Completed in 1929, the building was located north of the children's play area. The growing number of recreational users also led the city to build a cricket pitch in 1931 on the park's playfield (Sherwood 1977). During this period, the city constructed a golf maintenance storage building, which was completed in 1930, and in 1932 moved the old comfort station (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

The Great Depression further impacted the park's development. In November of 1931, for example, the city used 25 unemployed men to "clear out the underbrush and undesirable trees in the area south of the reservoir." After these men completed their work, they were to be sent to Magnolia Boulevard to continue (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Park Engineer to Mr. Umlauff, November 4, 1931).

The park underwent jurisdictional changes during this period as well. On July 11, 1935, Ordinance 65498 set aside and transferred jurisdiction and control over approximately 44 acres to the Department of Water Works at a cost of 50,000 dollars. The property was located between Beacon Avenue and 16th Avenue South, and between Spokane Street on the north and Dakota Street on the south and contained the two reservoirs (McWilliams 1955).

During the depression years, budgets were tight, prompting the city to look to the Works Progress Administration (WPA) for project work. When the tennis courts were abandoned in 1934, for example, the city attempted to have the WPA build new concrete courts but was turned down due to a lack of funds. In 1936, the Beacon Hill Community Club petitioned for the expansion "of the present unused Shelter House," pointing out that there was a need for a building with a gym, dance floor, auditorium, and kitchen. Once again funds were not available – either through the city or the WPA. The Park Department was successful in securing the aid of the WPA for remodeling and enlargement of the golf clubhouse. Park funds supplied the materials, while the WPA provided the labor [Figures 10-12]. One other project was completed during this period; in 1940 the city installed new children's play equipment (Sherwood 1977).

Figure 10. Construction of Golf Clubhouse, 1936.

Figure 11. Workers Constructing Golf Clubhouse, 1936.

Figure 12. Completed Golf Clubhouse, 1938.

Japanese-American Involvement in Jefferson Park

During the late 1930s, Japanese and Japanese-American residents were the largest minority group in Seattle, and the city had the second largest Japanese population on the coast. Many Japanese immigrants lived on Beacon Hill, attracted by the affordability of housing in the area and the lack of restrictive covenants (Sale 1976:176; Latoszek 2001, "History of Jefferson Park, Part II"). Given its proximity to this group, Jefferson Park was important to the city's Japanese community, and residents utilized the park's golf course and picnic grounds. In 1931, the Japanese Golf Association held its annual golf tournament at Jefferson Park (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Park Engineer to Mr. T. Konishi, July 25, 1931). Further evidence of Japanese residents' use of the golf facilities is found in a document from World War II. When World War II broke out and the government interned its Japanese citizens, the Park Board asked the City Council to hold all semi-annual or annual golf ticket cards belonging to Japanese residents for the duration of the war, "making them redeemable at war's end" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "Tennis Courts Plan Approved by Park Board," May 1, 1942).

Many Japanese-Americans undoubtedly enjoyed golf, but the most significant feature of Jefferson Park for the community was the picnic grounds. Don Sherwood pointed out that in the 1930s, "'Picnic grounds' had been provided in the area between the Clubhouse, the Shop Area and the Reservoir fence" (Sherwood 1977). The Japanese language schools used these grounds for two decades prior to World War II for an annual picnic, which attracted thousands of Japanese community members each summer (Latoszek 2001, "History of Jefferson Park, Part I"). In her autobiography *Nisei Daughter*, Monica Sone recalled attending the festivities at Jefferson Park:

> We finally piled into the car, nervously adjusting new hair ribbons or neckties. When we turned into Rainier Avenue and headed south, the highway stretched bright and sunny, and far in the distance Mount Rainier loomed haughty and beautiful. It would be a fine day. We passed cars, and cars whizzed by us, filled with beaming, happy-faced Japanese and their children, all on their way to Jefferson Park.
>
> Hundreds of Japanese swarmed over the beautiful, sprawling green lawn of the picnic ground. It was a grand feeling to be away from the city heat and traffic. Here there was nothing more confining than the graceful poplars, the cool breeze from Puget Sound and the wide expanse of blue sky. Across the road, we could see the immaculate, trim golf course (Sone 1953: 72-73).

For Sone and her friends, the day was filled with excitement, and they took great pleasure in the park's natural beauty, which offered an oasis within the city.

Throughout the day the picnickers participated in a number of events, including foot races, folk dances, and marching band drills. The capstone to the day was a baseball game, in which "the issei men shed their hats and dignity and yelled themselves hoarse for their sons and favorite team in an amusing mixture of Japanese and English." So engaging was the game that "Even the reticent Japanese women shrieked involuntarily as they saw a boy slide for base and disappear in a cloud of dust with the baseman diving right on top of him." When the game ended and the grounds had been picked up, it was time to go home. Sone remembered that "As Father drove slowly over the gravel road, we looked back at Jefferson Park which now looked serene and

unperturbed as if it had not been assaulted with an invasion of Japanese celebrating their biggest community event, a good old-fashioned *undo-kai*" (Sone 1953: 78-80). These picnics may only have been hold once a year, but they were clearly a vital component of Seattle's Japanese community.

Not all citizens welcomed the Japanese citizens' use of the park. In particular, Carl Gustofson Hasselberg – known as the "Mayor of Beacon Hill" – opposed the picnics (Latoszek 2001, "History of Jefferson Park, Part II"). In July of 1933 he wrote a letter to the Park Department Commissioners, asking them to rid the park of the picnic grounds. Specifically he suggested, "The elimination in the Jefferson Park of what is now available as a picnic ground never used by the white population, but by the Orientals." Hasselberg insisted that "It doesn't seem right to have gatherings of people next to part of our Water Supply," and he recommended that the Park Department should "Either make an additional golf course of the grounds or leave it plain under the trees by removing all tables and stoves and placing signs forbidding picnicking"(Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from C.G. Hasselberg to Seattle Park Department Commissioners, July 23, 1933).

Hasselberg's opposition to having Japanese residents in Jefferson Park was not unusual for this period. The Pacific Northwest had a long history of anti-Japanese sentiment, which only intensified with the outbreak of World War II. In the 1920s, for example, a series of Alien Land Laws were passed, prohibiting Japanese from owning and leasing land in Washington and Oregon. In a further act of discrimination, Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1924, excluding Japanese from entering the United States. These and other similar measures demonstrated the obstacles facing Japanese residents in this country (Dodds 1986: 220, 246-247; Johansen and Gates 1967: 495).

In its response to Hasselberg, the Board of Park Commissioners refused to prevent the Japanese picnickers from using Jefferson Park. The Board stated that the "picnics do not interfere in any way with the water, inasmuch as the grounds are several hundred yards from the reservoir…." Furthermore, the Board had never received any complaints about the "manner in which these people have conducted their picnics" or about the grounds. In fact, the Board noted that, "as a general rule they leave the picnic area in much better condition after their picnics than any of our other parks are left upon similar occasions, and which are patronized by other nationalities." In closing, the letter stated: "The Park Department feels that by restricting this area to the Orientals, it eliminates the necessity of granting them permission to hold picnics in the more popular parks" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Board of Park Commissioners to C.G. Hasselberg, July 27, 1933). At this point it seems that the Park Department was not willing to remove the picnic grounds, although its reference to not having Japanese picnickers "in the more popular parks" suggests that racism against Japanese-Americans was pervasive.

Hasselberg continued to press the cause of removing the picnic grounds. In June of 1934 he wrote to the mayor, asking for "an extension of another 9 holes on the links laid out where the picnic grounds are," thereby eliminating them. He pointed out that such an action would "keep this community a white man's community" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from C.G. Hasselberg to Mr. Charles Smith, June 10, 1934). Two months later the Board of Park Commissioners responded, writing that "this matter was discussed by the Park Board … and it is their opinion that in view of the fact that it is their duty to serve the public in general, it

would not be feasible to remove the stove and tables at Jefferson Park." The Board did conclude the letter by stating that, "At a future date these grounds may be taken up the extension of the present golf course" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Board of Park Commissioners to Mr. C.G. Hasselberg, August 16, 1934). Despite its initial refusal to get rid of the picnic grounds, the area did not survive. In 1942, following the internment of Japanese residents and the leasing of the park for an army recreation camp, Jefferson Park's picnic grounds were shut down and fences moved in to close off the perimeter of the reservoirs. Once the war ended, the military moved out, and the former picnic grounds were absorbed into a new golf facility. Whether or not this action was taken to rid Jefferson Park of its Japanese users, the end result was the same – the picnic grounds, and the rich cultural history they carried with them, were destroyed.

3.3 World War II to the End of the Historic Period: 1941-1954

World War II brought significant changes to the region. Although no section of the United States escaped the impact of war, according to historian Carlos Schwantes, "few if any experienced a more rapid or intense transformation than the Pacific Northwest." In particular, the region's two main centers of production – Seattle and Portland – mobilized to meet wartime demands. These cities manufactured a wide range of products for the war effort, including ships, barges, aircraft, food, machinery, clothing, and munitions. With its prominent Boeing Airplane Company, Seattle secured war contracts totaling $5.6 billion, ranking it among the nation's top three cities in per capita war orders. In response to the growing opportunities for work in urban areas of the Pacific Northwest, the region's population shifted as people moved to the cities (Schwantes 1996: 308-414).

The outbreak of war directly affected Jefferson Park. During the war, Seattle became a major port for troops leaving and entering the United States, and many of the city's parks and playgrounds were transformed into sites for anti-aircraft gun emplacements and drill grounds. As a port of embarkation and debarkation, the city hosted numerous armed forces personnel. Whether these military personnel were coming or going, processing their papers generally resulted in a delay. To house and entertain these transient servicemen, the Armed Forces command decided to create a recreation camp, selecting Jefferson Park as the site in 1941 (Sherwood 1977).

Originally, the Army leased four acres of the park to build the recreational camp, but the encampment eventually spread to over 50 acres and contained more than 40 buildings (Latoszek 2001, "History of Jefferson Park, Part II"). Designed to accommodate 1,000 soldiers, the camp was located along 16th Avenue, between Nevada Street and the reservoir fence and the clubhouse and the playfield on the east. The Park Department shops were located in the center of this area and were built to service Army trucks. Adjacent to them was a grease pit and garage. (Sherwood 1977). The main gate to the camp was from Dakota Street, and bus #31 from downtown provided transportation to the site. On the north side of the entrance road was the combination gym and canteen with a stage, kitchen and related facilities. On the south side were a barber shop, reading room, administration building, and a theater. South of these were seven rows of "guest cabins," together with a laundry room and barracks. Directly east of these cabins was a roller-skating rink. Continuing farther east, there were guest houses for officers, as well as a residence for the post commander. North of the intersection between Columbian Way and

Snoqualmie, the Army installed a gun battery emplacement and related facilities, leading to the eventual closure of the 9-hole golf course (Sherwood 1977; Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Board of Park Commissioners to Major Ralph J. Sitts, October 20, 1943).

From the camp's inception, the Park Department viewed its presence as an opportunity to gain facilities to meet the park's needs, such as a new recreation center, in the postwar period. Given the emergency condition of the war and the limited finances of both the War Department and the city, construction of the camp buildings was completed by the dwindling Civilian Conservation Corps, volunteer labor by servicemen, community groups, and Park Department labor. Thus, the majority of the structures were substandard from a building code standpoint (Sherwood 1977).

The camp officially opened on May 24, 1942. "They opened a snug refuge for shelterless soldiers yesterday in a level, tree fringed spot on the sunny west slope of Beacon Hill," explained a local newspaper. "It is the new Army Recreational Camp, one of twenty-three built by the army over the country to house soldiers in town on leave." The paper observed that the camp met an important need in the city, stating that "In Seattle, where soldiers have walked the streets at night because hotels were full of war swollen population, the camp with its 1,000 beds was needed badly." The opening of the camp was a time for celebration: "Around 400 persons attended the patriotic ceremonies at which new buildings, still full of the pleasant smell of fresh lumber, were formally dedicated." A committee served coffee and doughnuts to the soldiers and their guests, while an army band "played stirring martial music" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Newspaper article, "Opens to Weary Soldiers," May 25, 1942). The construction of the camp was a proud moment for the Army, as well as local citizens who had helped with the planning and construction of the site.

To keep the soldiers and their guests occupied the National United Service Organizations (USO) provided them with a wide variety of entertainment [Figures 13 and 14], including vaudeville shows with Hollywood stars and donkeys trained to play polo. There was a penny arcade, complete with a merry-go-round and loop-o-plane. Soldiers played baseball, football, golf, and tennis. The camp also offered crafts, such as photography, wood carving, and printing. Although the city code prohibited the drinking of beer on park property, the state waived the restriction in view of the sovereignty of the federal government's lease of the camp area. Thus soldiers could enjoy a beer at the camp's canteen (Sherwood 1977).

Some of the camp facilities were also enjoyed by local residents. In the early 1940s the Army proposed, for example, to build three new hard tennis courts for civilian and Army personnel. The Beacon Hill Inter-Club Council provided the materials for the project, while the Engineering Department constructed the courts. The courts were located along Beacon Avenue just north of the shelter house. In September of 1942, citizens of the Beacon Hill district gathered to celebrate the project's completion (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Beacon Hill Inter-Club Council to Board of Park Commissioners, September 23, 1942; Sherwood 1977).

The war years also saw the establishment of lawn bowling at Jefferson Park. According to Don Sherwood, the game of lawn bowling has a rich history, dating back to ancient Rome. Lawn bowling was widely played in England and Scotland since Medieval times. In the United States, the game dated to the colonial period, and in 1915 the American Lawn Bowling Association was formed, establishing rules for play and promoting tournaments (Sherwood 1977). In 1942, the

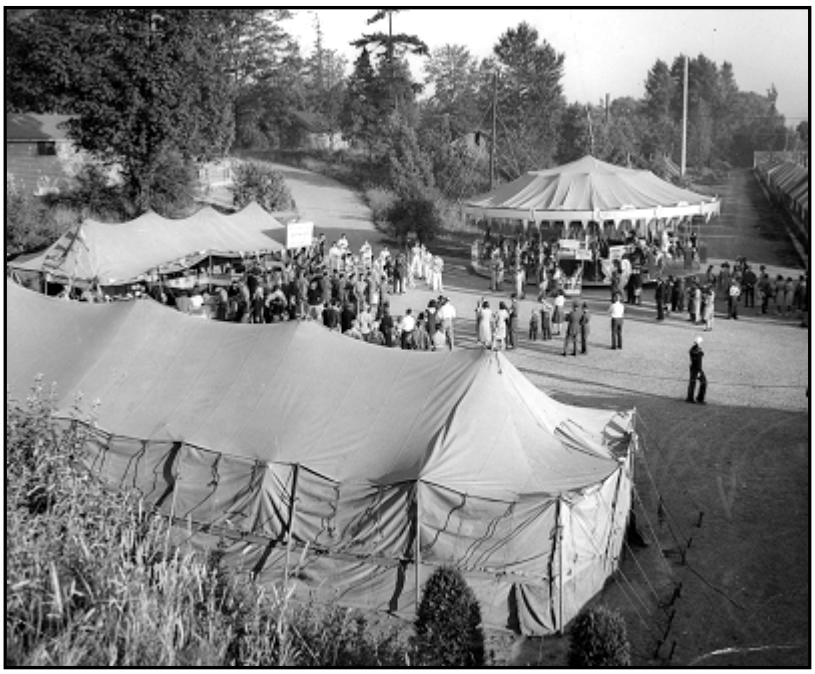

Figure 13. Weekend Celebration at Jefferson Park Army Recreation Camp, 1943.

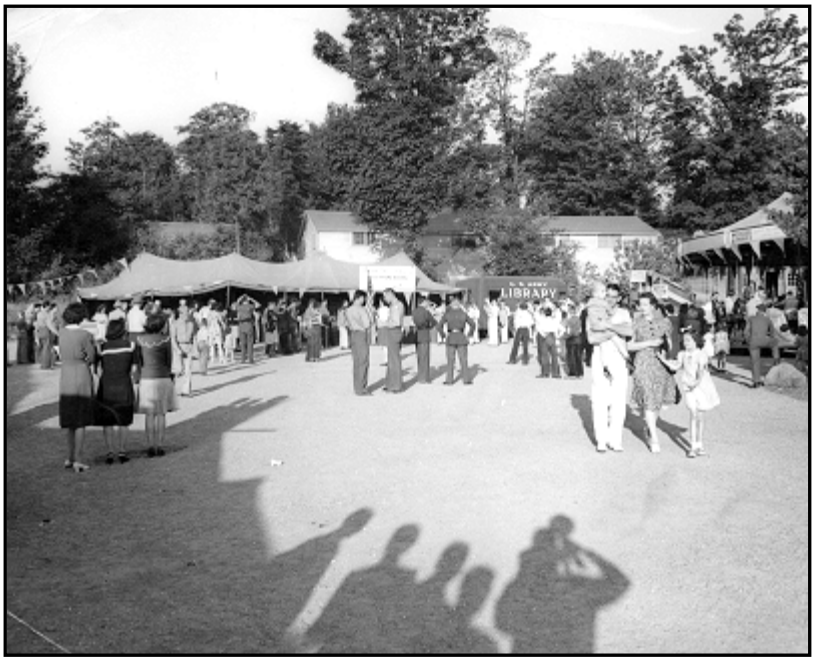

Figure 14. Enjoying the Amusements at Army Recreation Camp, 1943.

South District Lions Club sponsored a South District Lawn Bowling Club. That March, 12 bowling enthusiasts held an organizational meeting, electing officers for the club. This group prevailed upon the Seattle Park Board to build a lawn bowling green in the park, and over the next two years, the lawn bowling club, Army, and Park Department worked together to create a small green south of the golf clubhouse (Sherwood 1977; Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "The Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club Celebrates its Fortieth Year of Bowling on the Green," no author, no date). The green officially opened on May 14, 1944, and was rather crude in construction. "Our first green was built on the south side of the golf club building, all done amateurishly, laying drain tile with no outlets so when the ground settled we had to bowl across the furrows," recalled a bowler in 1970. "We fixed it by spreading two inches of dirt in the hollows and waiting until the grass came up through it." By this point, the club's membership had more than doubled from its original group; it now counted 43 men and 10 women among its members (Jarvis 1970).

Also in 1944, the Park Board announced that the Jefferson Park green would be officially renamed the "Beryl Wells Memorial Green," in honor of Beryl Wells, a member of the Park Board who was instrumental in establishing the green. A granite slab marked the site (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "Summary of the History of Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club," no author, no date). The following year, the lawn bowlers renamed themselves

the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "Dedication: Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club Clubhouse," September 24, 1970).

Following the dismantling of the Army camp in 1946, the City made plans to redevelop golf on the west side of Beacon Avenue, eliminating the lawn bowling green. To replace it, the Park Department created two new greens with "concrete foundations, proper drainage and [a] splendid view of the city, Puget Sound and Olympic Mountains." The greens, located to the northeast of the golf clubhouse, were completed in 1948 and 1949. The bowlers also converted the former residence of golf professional Joseph Jefferson into a clubhouse. (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "Dedication: Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club Clubhouse," September 24, 1970). Once again, lawn bowlers remembered their debt to Beryl Wells, establishing a commemorative plaque and drinking fountain on the north side of the new greens [Figure 15] (Sherwood 1977).

Lawn bowling at Jefferson Park was – and continues to be – enjoyed primarily by senior citizens. While people of any age were welcome to play the game, promotional materials tended to be aimed at older residents. For example, the Jefferson Park and Queen City Lawn Bowling Clubs produced a brochure titled "Lawn Bowling: The sport that makes you feel like a kid again." While it was not exclusively targeting seniors, the brochure emphasized the benefits of the game for older Americans. "If you are reaching near to your retirement age or if you've already retired," it declared, "you'll find this God's chosen game to give you a sports interest for all time. So long as you can walk you can play our Game." The brochure also included

Figure 15. Beryl Wells Memorial Fountain, 2001.

testimonials from players and their spouses. "All winter long Eddie looks forward to the spring opening of the Green," stated one wife. "His playing in the outdoor air and the pleasure he gets from the game has kept him alive these recent years. Thank God for this grand game." A 55-year-old woman explained that lawn bowling was "the only sport I know which is easy enough for me to play and I certainly enjoy every minute I'm at the Green…." In addition to being appropriate for seniors, the game was evidently well suited to businessmen. In its closing paragraphs, the brochure described the rejuvenating affects of the game. "The tired business man after thirty minutes of play in the evening experiences a wonderful feeling of exhilaration and every muscle is at once administered to by this method of relaxation" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "Lawn Bowling: The sport that makes you feel like a kid again," no date). Like Olmsted's idea of urban parks as natural oases of calm and tranquility, proponents of lawn bowling at Jefferson Park believed that the game offered an escape from the stresses and cares of modern life.

In addition to the emergence of lawn bowling at Jefferson Park a number of other changes occurred during this period. One of the most important was the closing of the recreation camp. On March 31, 1946, the Army declared the camp officially closed and announced that the buildings and equipment were surplus. Normally in this situation the War Department removed all facilities and restored the premises. In the case of Jefferson Park, the structures were declared surplus due to the substantial contribution made by the city and community in the way of finances and labor (Sherwood 1977; Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Board of Park Commissioners to Senator Warren G. Magnuson, March 8, 1946).

The Army's decision sparked a controversy over whether the various camp buildings should be disposed or retained. While the Park Board wanted the buildings and equipment to be turned over to the city for recreational purposes, the Building Department worried about the structures not meeting then-existing building codes. When the City Council immediately proposed that the buildings be turned over to the Federal Public Housing Authority to relieve the acute housing shortage temporarily (according to Schwantes, Seattle and Portland confronted some of the nation's worst housing problems during the war), the Building Department disagreed. Later the gym/canteen, roller skating rink, and several officers' quarters were added to the retention list, prompting another cry of protest concerning the need to remodel the buildings to meet code requirements (Sherwood 1977; Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Board of Park Commissioners to Senator Warren G. Magnuson, March 8, 1946).

Other park users had their own ideas about the possible future of these structures. During this period, lawn bowlers suggested that the roller rink be turned into an indoor lawn bowling facility, stating that it was "ideal for this purpose" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Charles P. Middleton to Board of Park Commissioners, April 17, 1946). Others proposed keeping it as a roller rink "for use by the youths of not only the immediate neighborhood but the entire city" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "Beacon Hill Residents Seek Rink," January 29, 1947). By the end of 1947, the Building Department's concerns, combined with the excessive costs of remodeling, won the struggle over the future of the Army camp. The roller rink became a materials storage building, the gym/canteen was awarded to Seattle College for use in the G.I. education program, and the remainder of the structures was sold at bid (Sherwood 1977).

The lease agreement between the City and the War Department called for the restoration of the park to its original condition. Once the war had ended, however, the two parties renegotiated the lease due to the fact that a great deal more acreage had been used for the camp than called for in the original contract. Senator Warren G. Magnuson was involved in the process of renegotiation (Latoszek 2001, "History of Jefferson Park, Part II"). On March 14, 1946, he wrote in a letter to the Park Board, "the land will be returned to its original owners; but in returning it, the War Department has to restore the land to its original state, and sometimes it is possible to have the original owner take the buildings, etc. in lieu of the restoration or make some kind of an adjustment involving the comparative values of property against restoration estimates" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Warren G. Magnuson to Board of Park Commissioners, March 14, 1946).

The proceeds from the auctioned buildings, however, apparently never made it back into the park (Latoszek 2001, "History of Jefferson Park, Part II"). On December 14, 1946, the Beacon Hill Community Club petitioned the City Council to "set aside all funds raised from the sale of buildings at the former Soldier Recreation Area for the construction of a field house at the Jefferson Park Playground." The club pointed out that the Beacon Hill community "worked constantly throughout the war years for the development of the Soldiers Building Area, putting on prize fights, socials, card parties, wrestling matches, dances, scrap drives, and other money-raising activities." Therefore they were entitled to the benefits of any proceeds from the sale of those buildings. Furthermore, the club noted that there was a lack of suitable play space for children in the neighborhood. "The proper growth of our children into citizens depends on the care they get in their formative years. A city is only as good as its citizens." The President of the Aeronautical Industrial District Lodge 751 also expressed concern that his organization had invested in the buildings, and likewise he maintained there was a clear need for recreational facilities in the community. According to him, "The Beacon Hill community does not have adequate recreational and entertainment facilities at present and anything the Park Board would do to destroy those now existent would add to their handicap" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Beacon Hill Community Club Building Committee to City Council, December 14, 1946; Letter from Harold J. Gibson to Seattle Park Board, January 2, 1947). Despite pressure from the community, according to Mira Latoszek, a historian of Jefferson Park, the funds were not transferred as requested by the Beacon Hill Community Club (Latoszek 2001, "History of Jefferson Park, Part II").

In addition to the dismantling of the Army camp, this period saw the beginnings of the movement to establish a hospital in the park. In 1946, the City Council gave 44 acres in the southern portion of the park to the Veteran's Administration for a hospital, which was completed in 1949 at the cost of $6,300,000 (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "The Seattle Park Department Presents a New Nine Hole Golf Course at Jefferson Park," May 8, 1949; Sherwood 1977). By 1950, several buildings had been added to the hospital, including a research facility, animal building, and administration building (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

Following the end of the Second World War, the city was once again able to make plans for its parks, including Jefferson. In 1947, for example, the city erected a shop building south of the reservoirs and west of the golf clubhouse, which remains on the site today (Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use, Plan 384485, #1; Makers 1990). In 1946 state development funds had become available, and in 1948 voters approved a Seattle park improvement bond. It was during this period that plans were made to redevelop golf facilities on the west side of

Beacon Avenue. As a result, the lawn bowling greens and ball fields were relocated to the northeast and north of the golf clubhouse, and the playfield became adjacent to the shelter house. In 1949, the city added a driving range south of the golf clubhouse along Beacon Avenue. Later that year, workers constructed a new 9-hole course. It was located south of the golf maintenance yard, west of the new driving range, north of Nevada Street, and east of 16th Avenue. Designed as a "pitch and putt" course, it varied the length between holes to provide golfers with practice in the use of every club (Sherwood 1977). Not only would the course benefit local golfers, it would also be good therapy for veterans – particularly those residing at the hospital in the park. Discussing the new 9-hole, one golfer observed that for "ex-G.I.'s in various stages of repair and rehabilitation," Jefferson Park's recreational facilities "will be a valuable adjunct to the hospital facilities along the comeback trail to reconstruction and health" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Robert H. Harlin to Mr. Royal Brougham, January 15, 1948).

While golf facilities and lawn bowling greens provided community members with recreational opportunities, during this period there was a continuous push by local residents for expanded indoor facilities. Before the Army recreation buildings were auctioned off, the Beacon Hill neighborhood proposed a plan to adapt the gym/canteen into a community recreation center. The plan failed, however, and since that time the golf clubhouse had been serving as a space for high school dances, held at night when the golfers were not there. Not satisfied with this arrangement, the community renewed its efforts toward the construction of a field house. Recognizing that the population of Beacon Hill was growing, in 1949 the Park Department expanded the shelter house into a small field house, mainly through the addition of a large social room. The Beacon Hill Community Club furnished $5,000 toward the expansion (Sherwood 1977).

Adjustments to the reservoir fence in 1949 also impacted the park. In this year, the Water Department moved the fencing around the reservoirs further away from the edge of the water. In the process, one tennis court and some children's play equipment were lost. Interestingly, the Park Board was not in favor of the fence relocation, suggesting instead that the Water Department raise the height of the existing fence. Two years before the fence was relocated, the Board had pointed out that "the reservoirs would receive the same amount of protection from the public if the height of the fence were increased and these public assets and recreation facilities would be left intact" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Board of Park Commissioners to Members of the City Council, October 23, 1947). Apparently, however, the Water Department was not in favor of this solution, as the fences were moved not raised.

As the 1950s approached, the Park Department continued work on Jefferson Park, making a number of small changes to its infrastructure. In 1950 the city constructed a golf maintenance storage building. The following year, an addition was made to the driving range fence, the golf clubhouse was remodeled, and some grading and paving work was completed (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001). In 1952, workers built a compost shed adjacent to the shop building constructed in 1947. The structure remains in the park today (Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use, Plan 413189 #1, 5). They also constructed hardball and softball backstops. The next year a radio relay station was added to the south end of the 18-hole course. Also during the 1950s, part of the Veteran's Hospital property was officially deeded back to the Park Department for the construction of the 9-hole course, which had opened in 1949 (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

3.4 Expansion and Change in the Modern Era: 1954-2000

One of the most significant changes during this period was the development of the Asa Mercer Middle School, located in Jefferson Park. In 1954, the Seattle School District initiated planning efforts in response to the community's growing need for a new junior high school on Beacon Hill (Sherwood 1977). From the beginning, the discussion of a new school facility, which threatened to alter the existing 9-hole course, proved contentious. The Park Board, for example, expressed concern over any proposals that would "sacrifice active public recreation facilities in favor of other public agency needs" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Memorandum to the Joint School-Park Staff Committee from Paul V. Brown, January 29, 1954). A coalition of area golf clubs also opposed the plan, citing the need for expanding, not eliminating, golf facilities and pointing out that the "problems set up by school children being so close to the course cannot be successfully overcome." The coalition further argued that the park's reservoirs were "prime targets in the event of an attack by a foreign power," and as such it was "unwise to locate a school so close to such a target"(Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from King County and Seattle Golf Associations to Seattle Park Board, March 31, 1954).

Proponents of the school were equally adamant, believing that Jefferson Park was an ideal location and that the need for such a facility was "immediate and pressing." They also disputed the notion that the location adjacent to the reservoirs was a threat, as well as explaining that a joint Park Board/School Board facility would provide "at less cost to either department completely adequate facilities"(Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Beacon Hill community groups to Seattle Park Board, April 6, 1954). Another group of residents in favor of the school made the following points regarding the suitability of the Jefferson Park site:

- it was accessible to students and available to the school board without using the power of condemnation;
- it was conveniently and centrally located for the community that would be served by it;
- a school would serve more people than the 9-hole golf course;
- the city had allowed land to be released for the Veteran's hospital, therefore, it should do the same for the school;
- the 9-hole course could perhaps be continued on a reduced scale;
- and finally, even if the 9-hole course were entirely eliminated, "the greater good would be served in having it a site for a Junior High School and a park or playfield or both, since there is no children's recreational area in this locality at present, and since the 18 hole course just across the street would remain" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Interested Citizens to Seattle City Council, March 10, 1954).

Eventually the parties involved reach a compromise. The site found to be most acceptable was the western eight acres that were undeveloped for the Veteran's Hospital complex, plus six acres not used for park facilities. In 1954 and 1955, these parcels were returned to the city for school purposes, prompting a major reorganization of golf and playfield amenities to provide a better fit with the new school. The School District and the Park Department worked out a joint

agreement regarding the costs of relocating the playfield and golf facilities and the location and use of the new school facilities by each agency. As a result, over the next year the playfield was relocated north of the new school along 16th Avenue, north to Dakota Street. The former skating rink, which had become a storage building, was also moved. The driving range was relocated north of the golf clubhouse, extending almost to the field house, while the putting green moved to the lawn area in front of the golf clubhouse. The short nine was shifted to occupy the now vacated driving range site along Beacon Avenue and to the east side of the new playfield. Golf Director P.M. Masterson and landscape architect C.M. Beardsley designed the new course, which opened in 1955. These changes necessitated the development of a half-mile path from the field house to the gym programs at the school (Sherwood 1977).

The school was dedicated in 1957 [Figure 16]. It was named for Asa Shin Mercer, one of the three Mercer brothers prominent in the early development of Seattle. The new middle school drew students from Cleveland, Sharples, Beacon Hill, Columbia, Concord, Georgetown, Maple, Muir, and Van Asselt schools, many of which were overcrowded (Sherwood 1977).

In addition to its property negotiations with the School District, during this period the Park Department also coordinated with the Water Department regarding 11 acres in Jefferson Park. The parcel in question was the strip of land south from the fire station at Spokane, between Beacon Avenue and the reservoir fence to the extension of the south fence line to Beacon Avenue. The area had been developed with playground and golf facilities since approximately 1915. In 1955, the Park Department requested that the Water Department transfer the title of the property to the Park Department jurisdiction, and soon thereafter the Park Department purchased the site (Sherwood 1977; Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, Letter from Superintendent of Parks to Superintendent of Water, December 15, 1955).

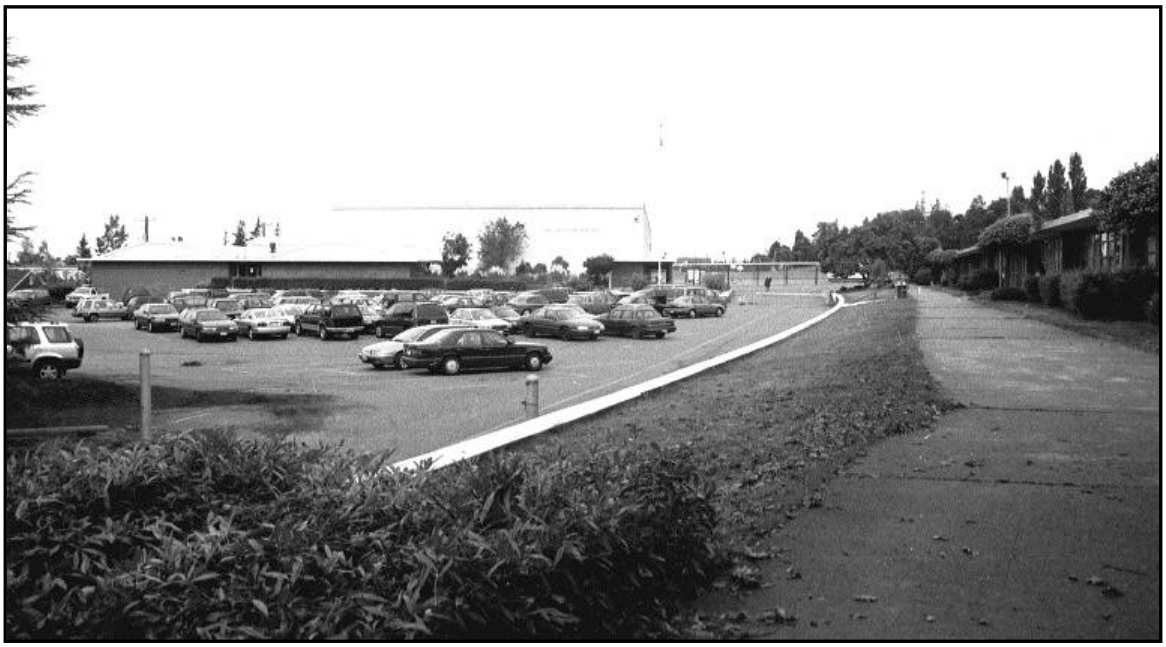

Figure 16. Asa Mercer Middle School, 2001.

During this period, several buildings were constructed in the park. In 1957 workers constructed the reservoir water quality lab [Figure 17]. Designed by structural engineer A.J. Mahoney, the original lab was 3270 square feet. In 1974, it was expanded to 6520 square feet (*Seattle Times,* Obituary, February 6, 1959, p. 32; Property Card Permit No. 45098; Miller/Hull 1989). In 1965 workers built a shed for storing golf carts. In 1967 two additional structures were added to the park's infrastructure – a storage building and restrooms for the golf facilities (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

Another significant event occurred during this period: the construction of a new lawn bowling clubhouse. Lawn bowlers had been using the former house of golf professional Joseph Jefferson as a clubhouse, but in 1965 they began planning for a new facility. The passage of the Forward Thrust Bond Issue in 1968 provided $20,000, which was matched by funds raised by the Club, plus other park funds totaling $7,000 (Sherwood 1977). On September 24, 1970, city officials and lawn bowlers gathered to dedicate the structure. Lawn bowling at Jefferson Park continued to draw mostly older players. Indeed, in 1970 the average age of members of the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club was 65, but as one bowler declared, "No one who keeps active ever really gets old." The new clubhouse was a one-story building, combining storage space with a large lounge, kitchen, restrooms, and office [Figure 18] (Jarvis 1970). At the dedication Ivor E. Bebb, president of the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club, expressed his gratitude for the efforts that resulted in the new clubhouse. "Now we have this handsome new building, representing a victory won by inches, through the city's Forward Thrust program, the willing cooperation of the Park Board and the very gratifying contributions of our members," he said. "We are looking back in deep appreciation and forward in anticipation of the growth of our Club and the greater enjoyment of lawn bowling in Seattle" (Files of Frederica Merrell, Jefferson Park Alliance, "Dedication Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club Clubhouse," September 24, 1970).

In the same year as the new clubhouse was built, the Veteran's Hospital expanded, adding several new structures. Specifically the following buildings were completed: office building, M.R.I. building, and retail store. The hospital continued to grow over the coming decades. In 1980 a main hospital building was constructed, followed by new lodging accommodations in 1983. In 1994, the Veteran's Administration developed a radiation therapy facility and an animal research center. Two years later, a canteen building was constructed (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

One of the issues that continued to plague Jefferson Park during this period was the need for more indoor space for recreational activities. The gyms at the Asa Mercer Middle School provided the community with space for after-school activities, but there was still a demand for club, social, and craft activities that could not be met by the limited field house. Participation in art programs demonstrated that there was clearly interest in having these opportunities; in just one year, for example, 1,461 people registered for the cultural arts program, and numerous residents dropped in for events. Given the popularity of these programs, it is not surprising that the Forward Thrust bond proposal submitted to voters in 1968 contained an allotment for the expansion of the field house into a community center. Voters approved the bond issue and plans for the enlarged center were prepared. In 1972, the new center was completed at the cost of $280,000 [Figure 19]. It contained a game room, teen room, full kitchen, and social hall (named for C.G. Hasselberg in 1974), as well as space for art, music, and pottery (Sherwood 1977).

Figure 17. Reservoir Water Quality Lab, 2001.

Figure 18. Rear View of Modern Lawn Bowling Clubhouse, 2001.

Figure 19. Community Center, 2001.

While this new center provided a vast improvement over the existing structure, the need for more recreational facilities continues today.

During the 1970s, golf operations at Jefferson Park changed considerably. Throughout the decade, the number of golfers increased; by 1976 attendance at Jefferson Park had reached 107,908. But the growing interest in the sport soon outmatched the number of courses. According to Al Jones, director of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association, "there were too many players for the number of available courses," prompting city golfers to head to the suburbs, which in turn placed a strain on the maintenance and operation of the municipal courses. Faced with budget cuts, in 1978 the city placed the Jefferson course under the operation of a concessionaire, impacting the ticket office, pro shop, restaurant, and building maintenance (Sherwood 1977).

Further changes occurred in the 1990s. In 1994 the city passed a resolution approving a new management structure for municipal golf, including operation by a non-profit organization. The next year a golf course agreement for Seattle was finalized, and Municipal Golf of Seattle (MGS) took over the operation of the city's courses (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

During the late 20th century, maintenance demands and the need to accommodate a growing number of visitors resulted in further changes to the park's infrastructure [Figure 20]. In 1979 the tennis courts were resurfaced and the southern reservoir was decommissioned. In 1985, the play area along the west side of Beacon Avenue north of the community center was constructed, and the following year a four-foot fence was installed along the Beacon Avenue portion of the play area [Figure 21]. In 1988, a lab/pump building associated with the operation of the reservoir was

Figure 20. Aerial Photo Illustrating the Development of the Beacon Hill Community, 1966.

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constructed [Figure 22]. In 1990, a citywide horticultural facility was built, in the process eliminating two baseball fields and the former skating rink turned warehouse [Figure 23]. The horticultural facility also eliminated east-west access through the park (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001; Latoszek 2001, "History of Jefferson Park, Part II"). While some of these changes, such as the addition of the play area, enhanced park visitors' experiences, others, particularly the establishment of the horticultural facility, resulted in the fragmentation of Jefferson Park's resources.

Figure 21. Children's Play Area, 2001.

Figure 22. Lab/Pump Building, 2001.

Figure 23. Citywide Horitcultural Facility, 2001.

In 1997 community members formed the North Beacon Hill Planning Association, prompting the superintendent to place a moratorium on all improvements at Jefferson Park (except the driving range) to give the group time to complete a neighborhood plan. One minor development occurred in 1998, however, when a fence was installed at the golf maintenance yard. The next year, Seattle Transportation, in charge of managing the roadways through the park, transformed Beacon Avenue. Prior to this project, the tree-lined median envisioned by J. C. Olmsted in 1912, had remained an unpaved dirt strip – used to separate north- and south-bound traffic lanes and for parking. Using federal funding, this project changed the configuration of Beacon Ave. by moving both through-traffic lanes to the east side of the street and developing the west half of the street for parking. Concrete curbs and landscaped islands now separate the parking lots from the driving lanes, providing a safer environment for pedestrians walking from their cars to the various activity areas within the park. Seattle Transportation also built a gravel path and provided landscaping along the east side of Beacon Avenue [Figures 24 and 25] (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

During 1999 steps were taken toward the development of additional recreational facilities at the park. In that year, voters passed a community center levy, providing funding to build a gym at the community center. Furthermore, the 1999-2000 Parks Capitol Improvement Program included funding for the redevelopment of the children's play area. Open space at the park was given a boost in 2000 when Seattle Public Utilities relocated the reservoir fences, opening up approximately four to five acres of land to the public. That year construction began on an east-west path through the park and designs were submitted for relocating the fence at the north end of the 18-hole course bordering Spokane Street in anticipation of future path construction. Voters in 2000 continued to support Seattle Parks, passing a Pro Parks Levy, which provided substantial funding for a variety of improvements to Jefferson Park (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2001).

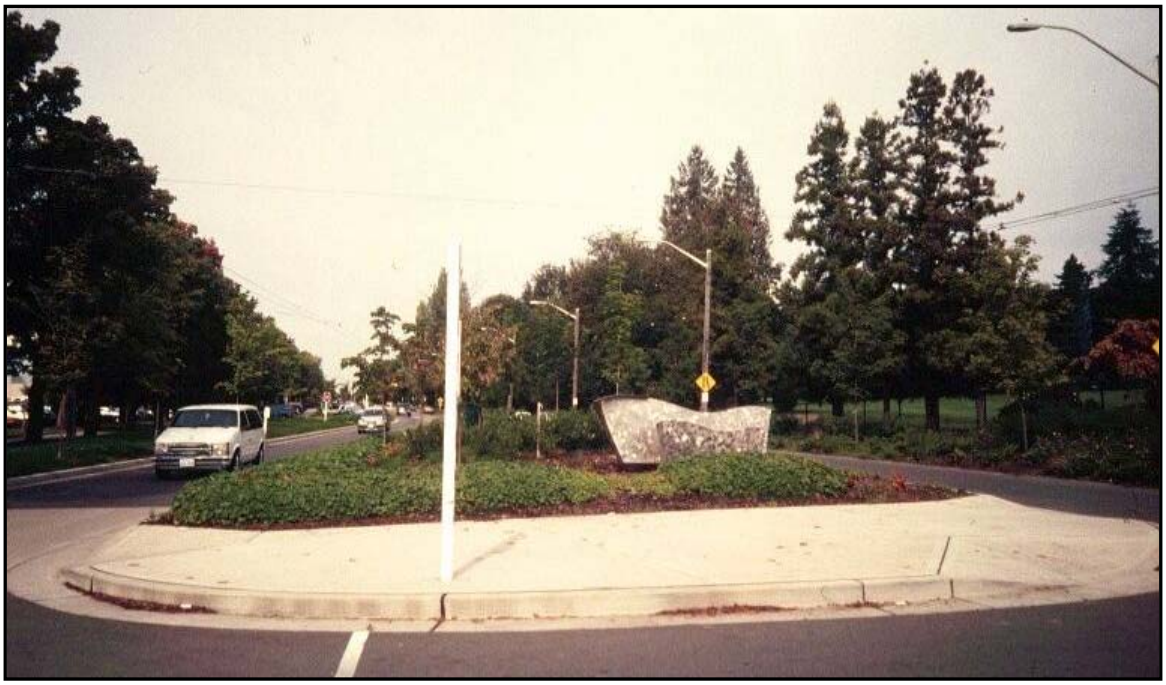

Figure 24. Beacon Avenue Looking North from South End of Jefferson Park, 2001.

Figure 25. Gravel Path on East Side of Beacon Avenue, 2001.
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In summary, Jefferson Park continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of residents and other park users. Since the land was first set aside in the 1890s, the site has experienced a significant number of changes, both to its physical infrastructure and its landscape features. Buildings have been constructed, torn down, and relocated. Golf courses and lawn bowling facilities have been expanded, eliminated, and rebuilt. Land has been developed for activities not usually associated with parks, such as the middle school, Veteran's Hospital, and horticultural complex. While the current park configuration bears little resemblance to the Olmsted Brothers' original plan, it remains a vibrant part of the community. Since its inception, Jefferson Park has been used by its Beacon Hill neighbors and other Seattle residents in a variety of ways. The park has hosted golfers, lawn bowlers, picnickers, playground enthusiasts, and others seeking a natural oasis or open space in the city, bringing together a diversity of users. Jefferson Park continues to function in this capacity today, remaining a vital component of the community.

Site Development Timeline

1892	City opens Isolation Hospital or Pesthouse.
1898	Ordinance authorizes the State to sell a 235-acre tract of State school land on Beacon Hill to the city for the purposes of building a reservoir and cemetery. The reservoirs are built, but much of the remainder of the land is devoted to parkland.
1902	Board of Park Commissioners request that the Olmsted Brothers make a preliminary visit to Seattle and prepare a report for a system of parks and boulevards.
1903	J.C. Olmsted makes a number of visits to Seattle, including Jefferson Park.
1903	Olmsted Brothers prepare report, "Comprehensive System of Parks and Parkways" for Seattle; it is adopted by City Council.
Prior to 1908	Workingmen's home constructed in vicinity of present-day Mercer School.
1908	Ordinance authorizes the construction of two reservoirs and the Cedar River Pipeline No. 2 on Beacon Hill.
1908	Name of park changed from Beacon Hill Park to Jefferson Park, and the property was transferred from "cemetery" to "park and recreation purposes".
1908	Olmsted Brothers firm prepares supplemental report for Seattle
1909	City transfers 137 acres east of Beacon Avenue to the Park Department
1909	City establishes a stockade
1911	Park Fund contributes money toward the purchase of the southeast portion of the Jefferson Park golf course
1911	Ordinance transfers a portion of the property west of Beacon Avenue to Board of Park Commissioners
1910	Plans are drawn for gatehouse to accompany reservoirs
1911	Two reservoirs go into service
1912	Olmsted Brothers prepare a preliminary plan for Jefferson Park
1914	Pesthouse relocates to the Firlands Sanitarium, north of Seattle
1914	Greenhouse constructed in shop area near 16th and Dakota
1915	18-hole golf course opens east of Beacon Avenue
1915	Park Department builds clay tennis courts
1915	Pesthouse and Workingmen's home closed and burned down
1916	Joseph Jefferson, golf professional, converts former tool shed into his residence; he lives there until his retirement in 1944
1917	James Frederick Dawson, part of Olmsted Brothers firm, visits the 18-hole course and makes a number of notes regarding vegetation
1918	Construction begins on hospital for WWI veterans; is successfully opposed by community and hospital is relocated
1918	Stockade abandoned and property transferred to Park Department
1919	Golf clubhouse burns down
1920	New golf clubhouse built
1923	City opens new 9-hole course, which is later broken up by Army recreation camp

Site Development Timeline

1927	Fire Station constructed on corner of Spokane Street and Beacon Avenue
1929	Trolley service expanded beyond Snoqualmie Street to Graham Street
1929	Brick shelter house built to replace comfort station
1930	City builds a golf maintenance storage building
1931	Cricket Pitch constructed on the playfield
1932	Old comfort station moved
1933	C.G. Hasselberg writes letter protesting Japanese-American picnickers' use of Jefferson Park
1934	Clay tennis courts abandoned
1935	Ordinance authorizing the transfer of 44 acres of property from the Park Department to the Water Department; this is the area containing the reservoirs
1936	Golf clubhouse enlarged and remodeled with help of WPA
1940	City installs new children's play equipment
1941	Trolley service ends
1941	Army decides to build recreation camp at Jefferson Park
1942	Army recreation camp opens; camp eventually spreads over 50 acres and contains more than 40 buildings
1942	South District Lions Club sponsors a South District Lawn Bowling Club for Jefferson Park
1944	First lawn bowling green opened
1945	Lawn bowlers change name to Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club
1946	Army camp dismantled
1946	City Council gives 44 acres in southern portion of park to the Veteran's Administration for a hospital
1947	Shop building constructed in golf maintenance yard
1948/1949	Two new lawn bowling greens completed; Joseph Jefferson's house converted into lawn bowling clubhouse
1949	Ball fields moved to the north of the golf clubhouse
1949	City adds a driving range south of the golf clubhouse along Beacon Avenue
1949	City constructs a new 9-hole course to replace one altered by army camp; located south of the golf maintenance yard, west of the new driving range, north of Nevada Street, and east of 16th Avenue
1949	Veteran's Hospital completed
1949	Park Department expands shelter house into a small field house
1949	Water Department moves reservoir fence further away from the edge of the reservoirs
1950	Golf maintenance storage building constructed
1950	Buildings added to Veteran's Hospital complex
1952	Compost shed constructed in golf maintenance yard
1954/1955	Two parcels of land returned to the city for construction of new middle school in southwest portion of park

Site Development Timeline

1955	Agreement between Park Department and School District for joint development and use of Jefferson field and joint use of Mercer school gym
1955	New 9-hole course opened to replace the course that was impacted by new school construction
1955	Water Department transfers 11 acres in park to Park Department
1957	Asa Mercer Middle School completed; in the process of building it the following facilities were relocated: playfield, former skating rink, driving range, putting green, and 9-hole course
1957	Reservoir water quality lab constructed
1958	Jefferson Park Golf Club changes name to Beacon Hill Golf Club
1965	Golf cart storage shed built
1970	New lawn bowling clubhouse completed
1970-1996	Veteran's Hospital complex expanded with several new buildings
1972	New Community center built around field house
1974	Golf clubhouse renovated
1974	Reservoir water quality lab expanded
1979	Southern reservoir in park decommissioned
1985	Children's Play area along Beacon Avenue constructed
1988	Lab/pump building associated with reservoir constructed
1990	Citywide horticultural facility built
1999	Seattle Transportation work on Beacon Avenue and provide paths along east side of Beacon Avenue
2000	Seattle Public Utilities moves reservoir fence, opening up 4-5 acres
2000	Construction begun on east-west path through middle of park
2001	Construction of east-west path along the north end of the park

3.5 Site Maps: 1912-1990

Comparing the aerial photograph from 1936 [Figure 26] with the Olmsted Brother's preliminary plan of 1912 [see Figure 3] reveals numerous changes. On the west side of Beacon Avenue, the 1936 photograph shows an 18-hole golf course instead of the 9-hole course proposed by Olmsted. The Olmsted Brothers also planned for a road to wind northward through the center of the course and across Beacon Avenue. This road was not implemented. Certain features do, however, appear the same on both the plan and the photograph. The general layout of the golf course is similar, including the pond and the configuration of some of the holes. Beacon Avenue reflects the Olmsted Brothers plan in terms of the row of evenly-spaced trees along the east and west sides of the avenue. In 1936 the center median, however, is not flanked by trees but is a dirt strip.

On the east side of Beacon Avenue, the park has few similarities with the Olmsted plan. Between the east side of the reservoirs and Beacon Avenue, there is a fire station that was not in the original plan. In the area the Olmsteds designated for a children's lawn, wading pool, and swings, there is a play area and baseball field. The shelter house that appears in 1936 was not on the plan. Where the Olmsted Brothers showed an automobile course the photograph shows a shop area. The Olmsted plan called for a shelter view with a view of Elliot Bay to be placed to the south of the path that ran from Beacon Avenue to Dakota Street. This was not built, and instead the area is occupied by the residence of golf professional Joseph Jefferson. Furthermore, the 1936 photograph documents the golf clubhouse on the west side of Beacon Avenue where the running track was supposed to be located; the original plan simply had a small golf shelter in the golf course on the east side of the avenue. Where the Olmsted plan calls for a baseball field, the photograph shows picnic grounds. Finally, the southwest portion of the park retains none of the features of the plan, but is instead covered by a 9-hole golf course.

The most striking similarity between the 1936 photograph and the plan concerns the park's circulation patterns. The configuration of the road that runs from Beacon Avenue, north of the picnic grounds, and curves toward Dakota Street follows the plan closely. The path just north of the shelter house that runs along east side of the reservoirs is also seen in the Olmsted plan. Additionally, there is path that begins on the west side of Beacon Avenue to the south of the golf clubhouse that is very similar to the one in the Olmsted plan. As it makes its way through the short 9, this path takes a sharp jog to the west and then travels north to intersect with the existing path near the shop area.

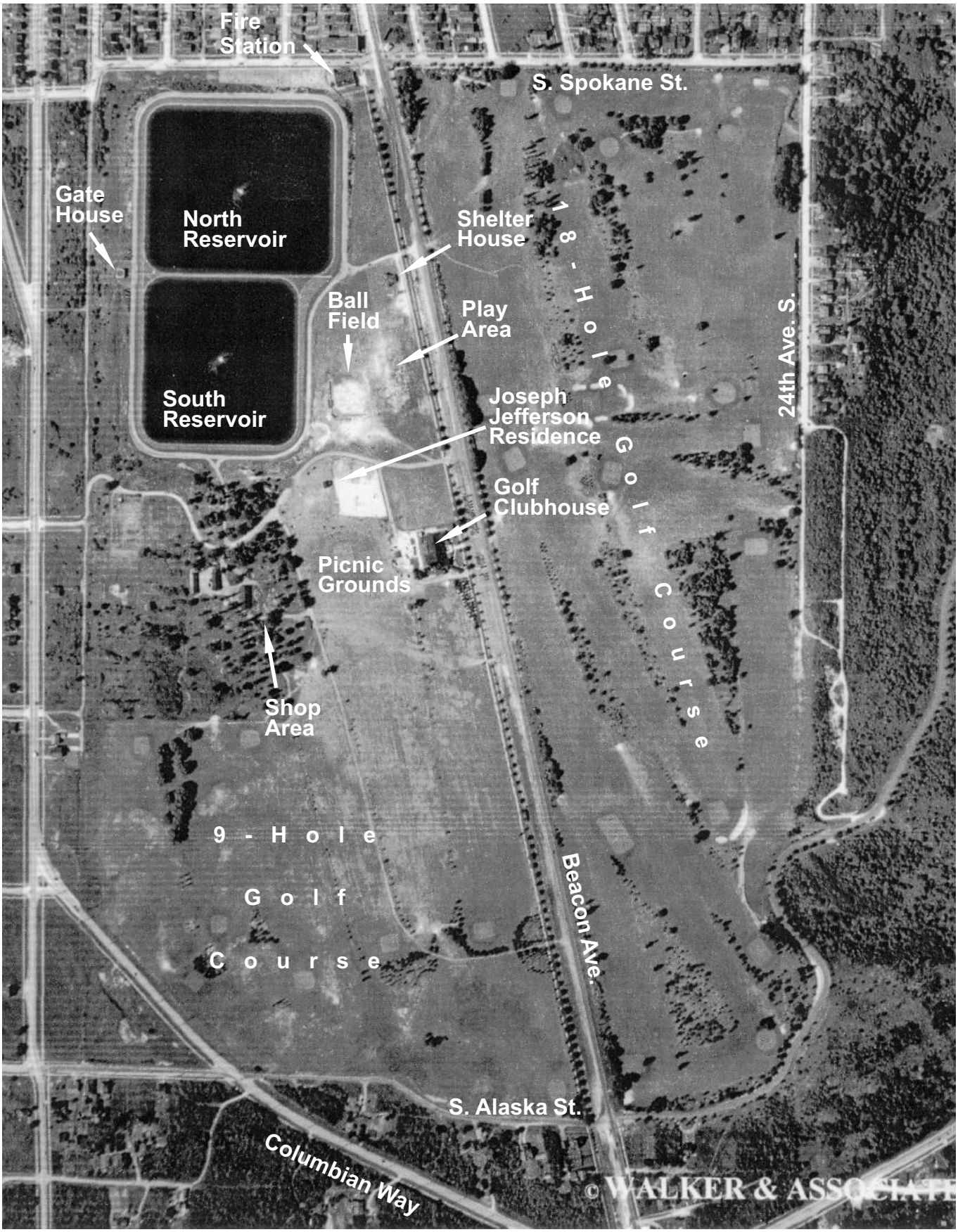

Figure 26. Aerial photograph, 1936.

The 1946 aerial photograph illustrates several changes that occurred in Jefferson Park [Figure 27]. First, tennis courts have been constructed north of the shelter house in the approximate location that Olmsted originally designated for tennis courts. Second, the Army recreation camp was built in the section of the park that Olmsted had intended for a storage yard. The third significant difference is the gun battery emplacement situated in the southwest portion of the park. It replaced part of the 9-hole golf course. Finally, by 1946 a lawn bowling green had been constructed south of the golf clubhouse.

Most of the park's infrastructure, however, remained the same as in 1936. The fire station, shelter house, gatehouse, residence of Joseph Jefferson, golf clubhouse, and shop area remained in the same location. In addition, the circulation patterns discussed above are also apparent in the 1946 photograph.

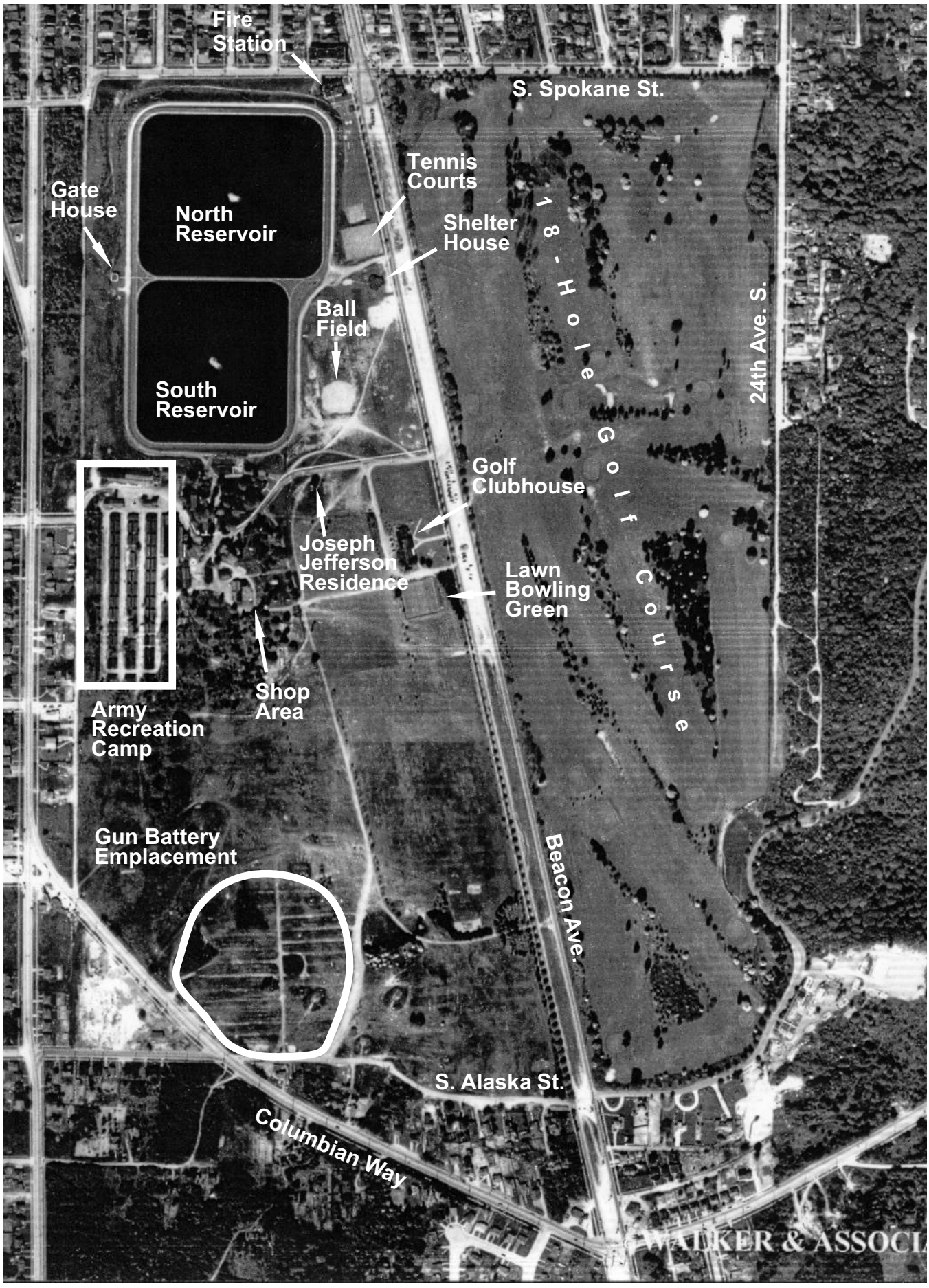

Figure 27. Aerial photograph, 1946.

The 1990 photograph reveals sweeping alterations to both landscapes and infrastructure in many sections of the park [Figure 28]. The 18-hole golf course remains essentially the same, although a few small structures have been added. On the east side of Beacon Avenue a number of buildings were constructed. In the northwest section of the park on the west side of the reservoirs, a pump building and water quality lab were completed. Between Beacon and the east side of the reservoirs, the park received a new community center built around the field/shelter house. This area also saw the addition of a driving range located south of the community center and north of the golf clubhouse. To the west of the driving range the park built a lawn bowling clubhouse along with greens. To the west of the lawn bowling area there is a new set of buildings used for golf maintenance purposes. South of the golf clubhouse there is now a 9-hole golf course, flanked by Beacon Avenue on the east and the Jefferson playfield on the west. Just north of the playfield lies a new horticultural complex, truncating a portion of the playfield. South of the playfield is Asa Mercer Middle School. East of the school the photograph shows the Veteran's Hospital complex, which completely engulfs the southwest corner of the park. Only small fragments of the circulation patterns evident in 1936 and 1946 remain. In summary, by 1990 the greatest similarity between the park's current state and the Olmsted plan is evidenced by the 18-hole golf course and the reservoir area.

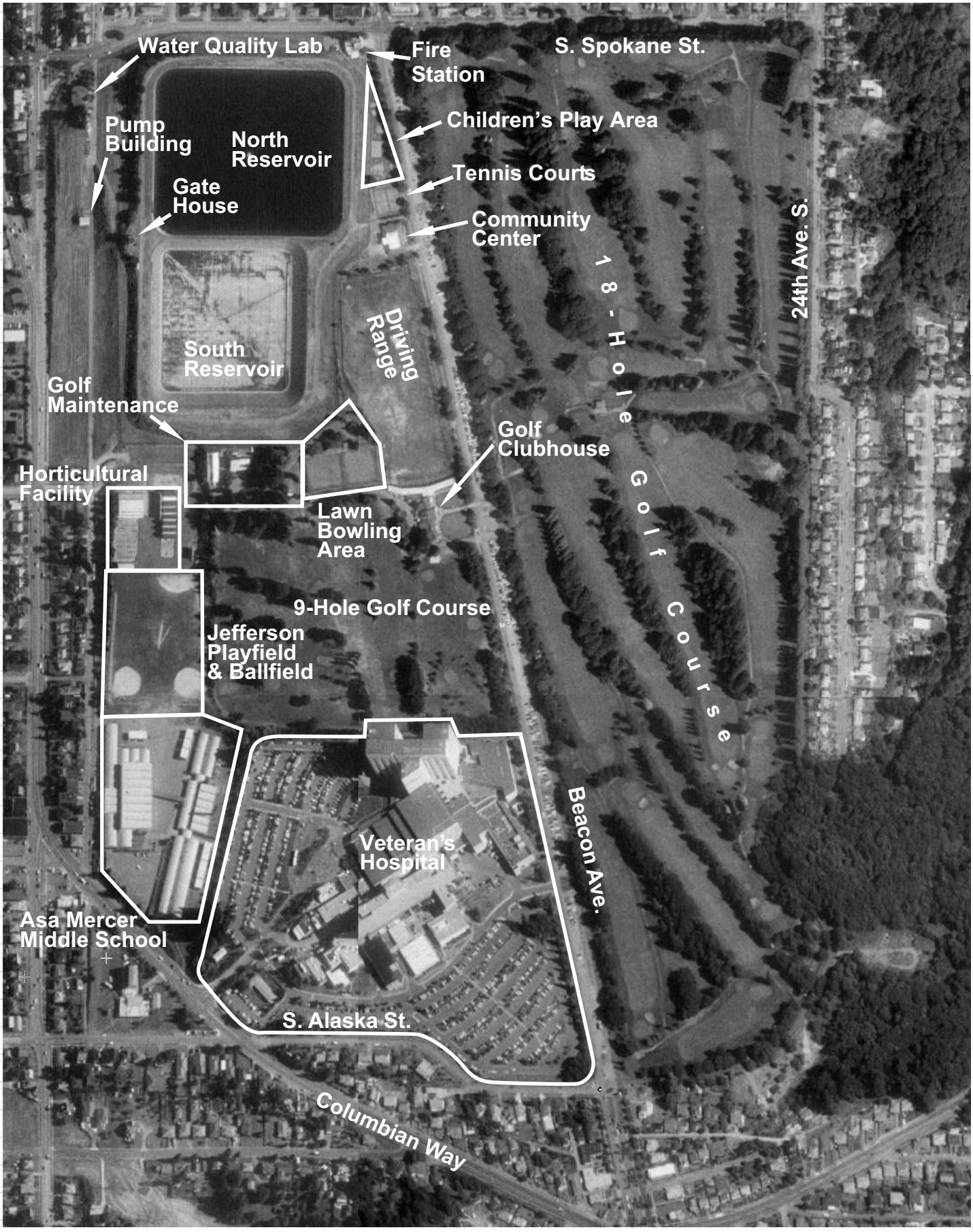

Figure 28. Aerial photograph, 1990.

4.0 Analysis and Evaluation

The most productive manner in which to discuss the significance and potential eligibility of Jefferson Park is by identifying areas within the original planning boundary that contain improvements associated with specific themes or developmental periods. We can refer to these as "character areas," and define them as discrete geographic areas within the larger park boundary that contain a linkage of resources associated with specific activities or functions. Within Jefferson Park, some of these "character areas" contain resources that date to the earliest periods of park development, or that reflect a theme that is consistent with that of developing municipal recreational parklands. Such areas include the water reservoirs and their associated facilities and the portions of the park devoted to the sport of golf. Other character areas contain primarily modern facilities or fulfill functions that are typically not associated with recreational parks. This category includes the Veterans Administration Center and the Asa Mercer Middle School.

It is important to note that although a few of the elements of the Olmstead Brothers preliminary plan were actually constructed, the firm's overall vision for the park was not realized. Historical events and City government decision that occurred subsequent to the preparation of the preliminary plan, events and decisions that could not have been anticipated by the Olmsted Brothers, resulted in the construction of new and unanticipated infrastructure within the park. Good examples of these events and decisions is the establishment of the recreation camp for GIs during World War II, the 1950s construction of the Asa Mercer Middle School, and the recent construction of the City horticultural facility – all within the Olmsted Brothers' original planning boundary.

It is also important to acknowledge the overriding importance and popularity of the sport of golf and its influence on development within Jefferson Park. The early establishment of the golf course, its subsequent success and the continued increase in popularity of the sport, set the tone for development within Jefferson Park. The Olmstead Brothers anticipated a multi-purpose park with room for leisure activities, such as walking through naturally landscaped areas and enjoying a fine prospect. However, over the years golf-related facilities have expanded within the park – taking up the room allocated for some of the other "active" recreational facilities included in the Olmsted Brothers' preliminary plan.

For purposes of analysis, we propose dividing the park into seven character areas. Four of these are directly associated with the early historical development of the park and are discussed in detail below. These include, 1) the Beacon Ave. corridor; 2) the area devoted to golfing (including the 18-hole course east of Beacon Ave, the golf clubhouse, the driving range, the nine-hole course and the golf maintenance facility, all located west of Beacon Ave.; 3) the water reservoirs and associated infrastructure; and 4) the remaining park facilities west of Beacon Ave.

The three remaining character areas, the VA Center, the Asa Mercer Middle School, and the City horticultural facility, contain primarily modern resources or those unrelated to municipal park development. These areas are self-contained, with their own circulation systems, buildings and structures, landscape plantings, etc., which reflect the unique functions of the complex. For these reasons, these three character areas are considered non-contributing to Jefferson Park as a whole and are excluded from further analysis.

4.1 Beacon Avenue Corridor

In 1912, the Olmstead Brothers' plan for Beacon Ave. called for widening the street to accommodate a central median (to be lined on both sides by evenly spaced rows of trees), which would separate the traffic lanes and effectively control access into the various recreation areas on either side of the corridor. Sidewalks along the east and west sides of the avenue would also be lined on both sides by rows of evenly spaced trees (see Olmsted Brothers preliminary plan, Figure 3).

The general guidance of the Olmsted plan appears to have been followed, i.e., the road was widened to include a central median. In addition, a concrete sidewalk was constructed along the west side of Beacon Ave., and a single row of trees planted adjacent to the east side of the sidewalk. This sidewalk was important, since it provided the principal means by which pedestrians accessed park facilities west of Beacon Ave., and was used both by neighborhood residents and by park users who came via the trolley. The trolley stopped at the southwest corner of the intersection of Spokane and Beacon. An open-sided shelter, which most local residents believe to be associated with the trolley line, marks the location of the trolley stop (Figure 29).

The 1927 construction of the Beacon Hill fire station represents an addition that was unanticipated by the Olmsted Brothers. Although the reason for building the fire station at this location is not entirely clear, it was likely due to the proximity of the site to a major transportation arterial and to the availability of undeveloped land already in city ownership. By 1927 some recreational facilities had been constructed farther south, but there were no permanent improvements located on the southwest corner of Beacon and Spokane. This development, however, furthered the trend of placing municipal facilities, unrelated to recreation, within the Jefferson Park planning boundary. The fire station continues to be used for its intended purpose, although a 1985 addition has altered the appearance of the building (Figures 30 and 31).

Until the late 1990s, few other improvements were made to Beacon Ave. or the land immediately adjacent to it. Some of the older improvements, including the small city water department meter building, appear to have been maintained, but no major improvements were added in the vicinity of Beacon Ave. The date of construction of this building remains undetermined, however the use of T-111 plywood siding on the building's exterior indicates that it may be fairly recent, or that it has been resided (Figure 32).

Most importantly, the Beacon Ave. median remained an unimproved dirt strip used as an informal parking area by park patrons. Similarly, the sidewalk proposed for the east side of the avenue does not appear to have been constructed – although a single row of trees was in place by the 1930s (see Figure 26).

In 1999, a federally funded transportation improvement project was begun along Beacon Ave. Completed in 2000, this project permanently altered the character of the Beacon Ave. corridor. The central median has been eliminated, and all parking moved to the west side of the street. The parking area is separated from the driving lanes by concrete islands (landscaped with low-growing ornamentals), which also serve to control access into the parking lots from the drive lanes (Figure 33). Two 12-foot driving lanes now occupy the east third of the right-of-way corridor. The main crossing of Beacon Ave., which links the golf clubhouse with the entrance to the 18-hole course, is striped with a crosswalk. Other components of the street project include the establishment of an irregular dirt path adjacent to the east side of Beacon Ave, newly

landscaped with native perennials (Figure 34). New signage as well as metal sculptures have been integrated into the landscaped islands at the north and south entrances to the park (Figure 35).

Summary

Although Beacon Ave. continues to provide the primary access to Jefferson Park, its current character reflects modern design and safety standards. In general, this character area, including the drive lanes, the associated parking lots and landscaping, lacks historical integrity. Elements of development that remain from the historical period include the sidewalk on the east side of Beacon Ave., the mature street trees, the trolley shelter and the fire station.

Figure 29. The trolley stop, located near the southwest corner of the intersection of Beacon Ave. and Spokane St. (HRA 2001).

Figure 30. The east elevation of the original component of the fire station, consisting of two garage bays and an office bay (HRA 2001).

Figure 31. The east elevation of the 1985 addition to the fire station (HRA 2001).

Figure 32. North and west elevations of the water department's valve building (HRA 2001).
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Figure 33. Overview looking north through the new parking lots along the west side of Beacon Ave. Note the mature street trees that parallel the east side of the sidewalk (HRA 2001).

Figure 34. Looking north along the newly constructed path on the east side of Beacon Ave.
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Figure 35. Looking north to the south gateway to the park. The VA Center is located to the left and the 18-hole golf course is located to the right (HRA 2001).

4.2 Golf Facilities

A large proportion of the existing parkland is occupied by golf-related facilities, which include the 18-hole course, the golf clubhouse and associated putting greens, the driving range, the maintenance facility, and the 9-hole course. Of these resources, the 18-hole course and the golf clubhouse are perhaps the most important historically. Although the course and the clubhouse were not constructed exactly according to the Olmsted Brothers' plan, they represent the earliest recreational facilities constructed within Jefferson Park. The 18 holes of the course each consist of a tee, fairway and green. In Jefferson Park, the fairways are defined primarily by vegetative plantings, consisting of both native and exotic trees and shrubs. Vegetative species include, but are not limited to: Douglas fir, hemlock, cedar, bigleaf maple, black pine, madrone, and several varieties of spruce and arborvitae (Figure 36). The configuration of these plantings has not changed considerably since the course was established. Although dead or dying vegetation has been replaced, and new plants have been added, the overall pattern of the plantings has remained the same (see Figures 26, 27, and 28). In addition to the bands of vegetation that define the fairways, most of the outside edges of the course contain bands of vegetation designed to screen the course from the surrounding residential areas and streets. In particular, a row of Lombardy poplar extends almost the entire length of the east margin – parallel with the row of private homes that lines the course (Figure 37). The vegetation is more diverse and irregularly planted along the north, west and south margins of the course, where deciduous trees predominate.

The 18-hole course also contains an internal circulation system designed to accommodate both vehicles and pedestrians. Jim Weir, Golf Maintenance Supervisor for the Jefferson Park course, indicates that the cart path and maintenance path system was reconstructed in 2000. New paths were added along the perimeter of many of the fairways. The paths vary between 8 and 10 feet in width and are currently surfaced with gravel, but eventually they will be surfaces with either asphalt or concrete. They extend throughout the course leading to maintenance areas such as that used to stockpile sand and to pile vegetation, and along the perimeter of the fairways to the various tees (see Figure 36).

Buildings and structures found within the course include the recently drained pond – an original fixture of the course – as well as a combination snack bar/restroom, and a storage building. The pond is located towards the north end of the course, in the approximate area indicated on the Olmsted Brothers' preliminary plan (Figure 38). This asphalt-sealed structure has an irregular shape and includes two, small, elevated "islands" that are currently planted with annuals. A stone retaining wall is located at the southwest edge of the pond – the adjacent area is landscaped with a pyrocanthus bush, American holly, bracken fern and English ivy. The ivy has covered the trunk of on of the adjacent trees, which include firs and cedars around the perimeter.

Both the snack bar/restroom and the storage building are located in the north-central part of the course, in the general vicinity of the "golf structure" and pergola proposed in the 1912 plan. Both buildings, however, appear to date to the modern era. The snack bar/restroom is built of concrete brick, and has a shallow gable roof (Figure 39). The building is screened from the surrounding area by arborvitae, planted in a rectangle around the building. The concrete block storage building is located slightly east of the snack bar, adjacent to one of the internal paths, and within a screen of trees (Figure 40).

A variety of small-scale features are also located within the course. These include the clocks located at the tees, and course signs. A drinking fountain, consisting of a metal bowl and fountain atop a 32" pipe and mounted on a concrete base, is located near the sand stockpile area (Figure 41). Site furnishings include a series of modern benches placed at intervals throughout the course.

As indicated above, the golf clubhouse, located across Beacon Ave., is another important historical resource. Although the current building dates to 1936, a golf clubhouse has occupied this site since 1915. Like the previous buildings, the current clubhouse is oriented to face the 18-hole course. A short, asphalt-surfaced path leads from the sidewalk along the west side of Beacon Ave. to the center of the front of the building. The path continues around the north side of the clubhouse to the rear of the building, and south along its front elevation. Putting greens bounded by concrete curbs (constructed in the mid-1950s), are located in front of the building on either side of the path. Square wooden bollards with chain link strung between, separate the travel paths from the putting greens. Small-scale features located in the vicinity of the clubhouse include the bronze statue of Sherwood Gillespy mounted atop a drinking fountain base (see Figure 4). The shelter associated with the driving range is located almost directly adjacent to the north elevation of the clubhouse, and the 9-hole course is located adjacent to the south side of the building.

The clubhouse itself is a masonry and wood frame building with an irregular plan. Designed in 1935 by architect Arch N. Torbitt, the building features a central one-and-a- half-story block with a side-gable roof, with one-story wings on the north and south sides (Figures 42 and 43). The side-gable roofs of the wings intersect the walls of the central block. The front elevation of the north wing has a projecting, front-gable extension at its north end. On the rear (west) elevation, flat-roofed components (part of the original design) extend from the west wall of the one-story wings. The area between these wings – at the rear of the central block – is used as a service area for the kitchen, and to receive deliveries.

The roof of the clubhouse is currently covered with asphalt shingles (replacing the cedar shingles called for in the original plan). Roof details include the top of an internal brick chimney that protrudes from the central block and a distinctive copper ventilator topped with a weather vane in the north wing. The gable ends of the central block, as well as the walls of a rear shed-roof dormer are covered with lapped board siding. In general, the fenestration conforms to the plan as shown in the architectural plans; the majority of the window openings contain their original sashes (six-over-six-light double-hung or six-light transoms) and the pattern of door placement remains – although the original doors have been replaced with new.

The major change made to the building is the enclosing of the original, open porch, which extended across the length of the central block on the front elevation. As originally constructed, the porch roof was supported by six pairs of wooden columns. The porch floor consisted of concrete, scored in 12" blocks. The spaces between these columns have been in-filled with windows and solid walls. Other modifications to the front elevation include the removal of the vertical porch supports for the roof of a recessed porch in the south wing, and the replacement of a window bay with a door in the north wing.

As indicated previously, the shelter associated with the driving range is now located directly adjacent to the north side of the clubhouse (Figure 44). This metal structure, open on the north elevation to facilitate the use of the range, extends for about 220 feet west of the Beacon Ave.

sidewalk. From the shelter, the driving range extends northward nearly to the south elevation of the community center. The range itself is enclosed with a combination of chain-link and nylon netting, strung from round posts. The driving range has been in this location since the mid-1950s, when the construction of the Asa Mercer Middle School necessitated the reconfiguration of many park recreational facilities.

The 9-hole course is located directly south of the golf clubhouse, between the clubhouse and the north boundary of the VA Center. An asphalt drive, which branches from Beacon Ave. defines the north edge of the course. Like the 18-hole course, this smaller course consists of tees and greens, but with attenuated "fairways." Unlike the 18-hole course, the 9-hole course lacks an internal vehicular circulation system. The only building associated directly with the course is a prefabricated metal shed that lies adjacent to the south side of the access road. The current configuration of the "short nine" dates to 1955, when the 9-hole course established after the end of World War II was abandoned – a change required due to the construction of Asa Mercer Middle School.

The golf maintenance facility is located east of the clubhouse, accessible from the asphalt vehicular road that defines the north edge of the 9-hole course. This complex consists of two buildings – both of which were constructed in the 1950s. The primary building is a split-level concrete block building with shops on south side and offices on the north and west sides of the building (Figure 45). Another storage/shop (referred to originally as a compost shed) is banked into a steep hill slope below the office building. This large building consists of a frame walls above a tall concrete foundation wall (Figure 46). The walls above the foundation are enclosed with wire mesh, covered with boards on the interior. This building has a gable roof, covered with composition shingles. Both buildings and a substantial amount of "yard" are enclosed within a chain link fence, topped with wire. Concrete slab retaining walls, built in the 1970s, define planting areas between the two buildings.

Summary

As previously discussed, facilities devoted to the sport of golf occupy a large proportion of the land base within Jefferson Park. This pattern was established early in the development of park infrastructure; the current area used for golfing actually represents a reduction from earlier historical periods – especially the period prior to World War II, when a much larger 9-hole course occupied most of the area now devoted to the VA Center.

Of the existing facilities, only the 18-hole course and the clubhouse date to the period prior to World War II. Important elements of the 18-hole golf course include the configuration of tees, fairways and greens, the major pattern of which has not changed since initial construction. Although some of the tees have been reconstructed, the fairways as well as the plantings that define them have not been altered significantly. Additionally, some small-scale features, such as the drinking fountains and the golf course signage, add historical detail and richness. Similarly, the golf clubhouse retains sufficient integrity and represents a major contributing resource with respect to golfing facilities and to the park as a whole. Although the modifications to the porch are unfortunate, they are reversible and most of the original design elements remain intact. In addition to the clubhouse, the Sherwood Gillespy statue dates to the early historical period and contributes to the significance of the site.

The integrity of the remaining resources is problematic. The 9-hole course, the driving range and the maintenance facility have all been moved several times during the past. Although they have occupied their current locations for 25 years (the minimum requirement for consideration under the City of Seattle's Landmark Program), their location and current appearance reflects modern influences.

Figure 36. Looking north along a fairway in the 18-hole golf course. Note the cart paths along the perimeter of the fairway (HRA 2001).

Figure 37. Looking southeast toward the Lombardy poplars along the east edge of the 18-hole golf course (HRA 2001).

Figure 38. Looking south to the pond (water hazard) at the north end of the 18-hole course (HRA 2001).

Figure 39. The west and south elevations of the snackbar/comfort station in the middle of the 18-hole course (HRA 2001).

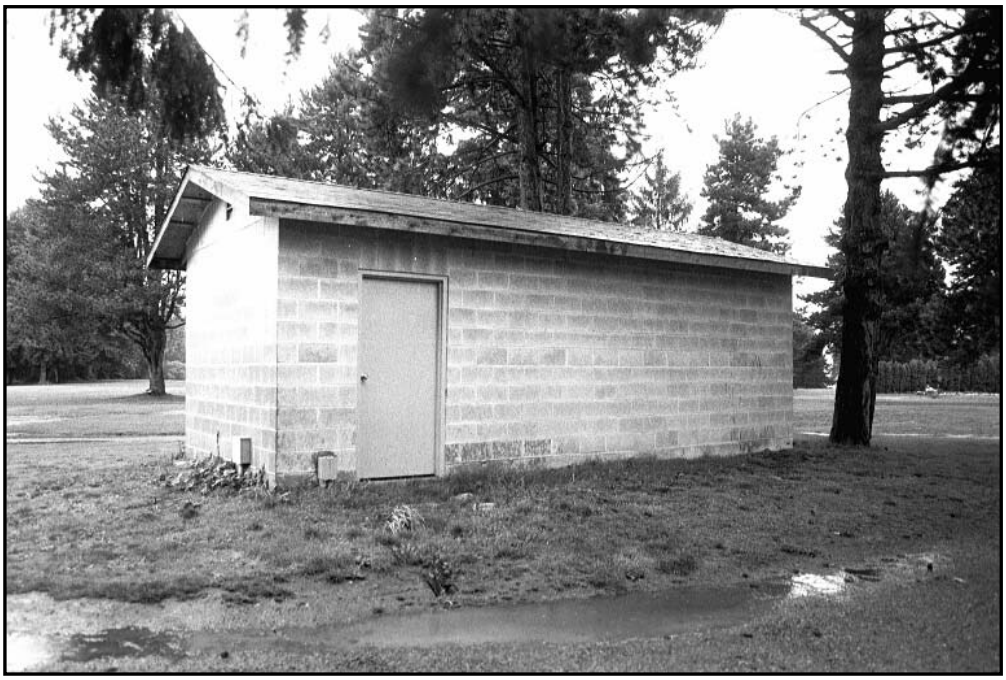

Figure 40. Concrete block storage building in the 18-hole course (HRA 2001).

Figure 41. Drinking fountain in the 18-hole golf course (HRA 2001).

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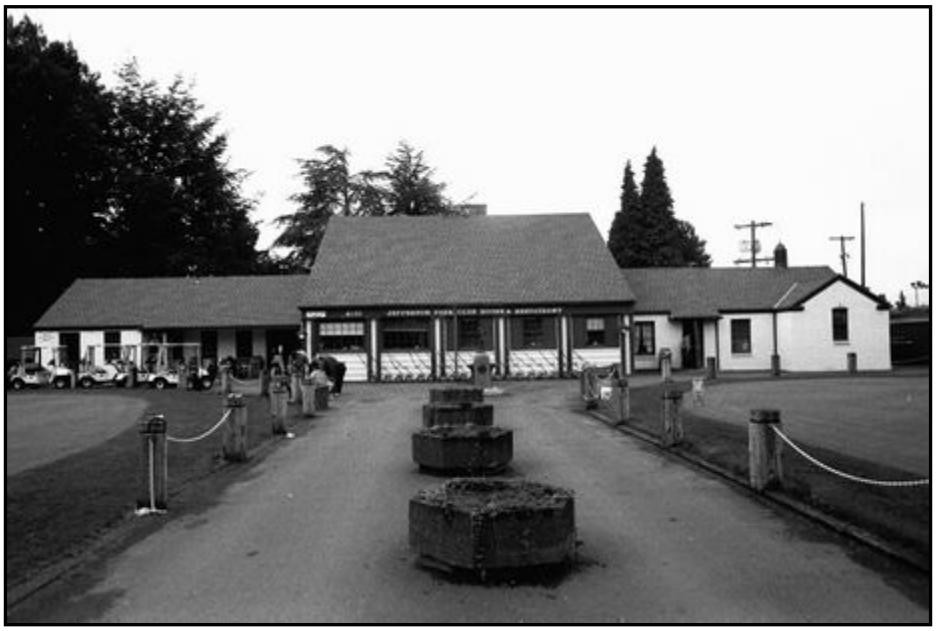

Figure 42. East (front) elevation of the golf clubhouse. Note the putting greens on either side of the front pathway (HRA 2001).

Figure 43. North side and west (rear) elevations of the golf clubhouse (HRA 2001).

Figure 44. Looking south southeast towards the driving range shelter; the top of the clubhouse appears above the roof of the shelter. The poles and netting in the foreground are part of the range fencing (HRA 2001).

Figure 45. Looking north to the south elevation of the office/shop building (HRA 2001).

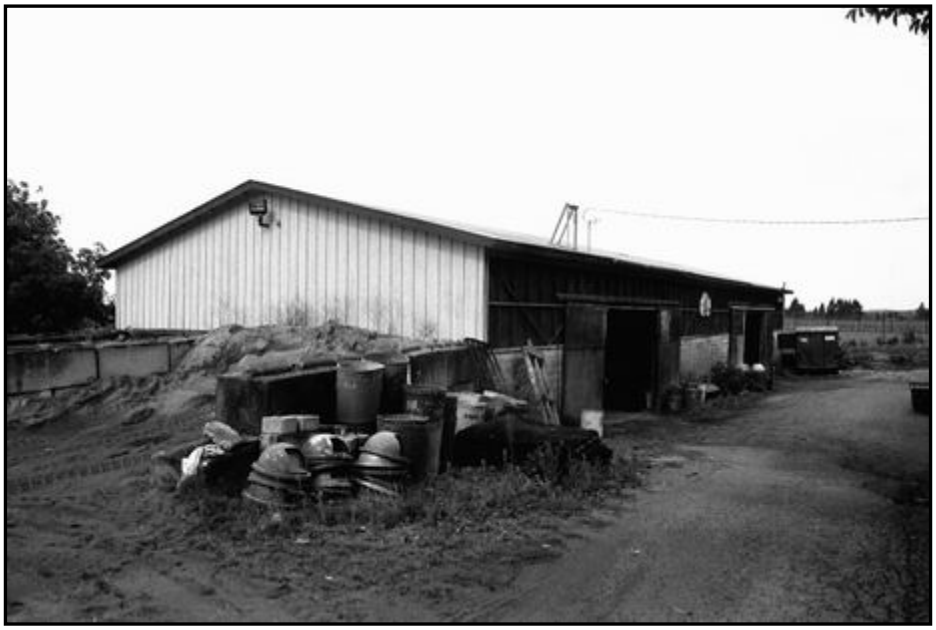

Figure 46. Looking north-northwest to the south and west elevations of the storage building (referred to in original construction drawings as a compost shed), located in the golf maintenance area (HRA 2001).

4.3 Reservoirs and Associated Resources

The two water reservoirs located in the northwest corner of the Jefferson Park planning area represent the oldest improvements in the park; they also possess the greatest integrity relative to their original design and construction. The Olmsted Brothers' firm knew that the reservoirs were intended for the site as early as 1903. By 1911, when J. C. Olmsted made his field survey for the purposes of preparing the preliminary plan, they had already been built. Olmsted worked around the reservoirs, integrating them into the overall design for the park. One of his intended improvements was an overview shelter, to be erected on the high ground southeast of the south reservoir. From this location, people would look over the reservoirs and beyond to take in the views of Elliot Bay. Like most of the facilities designed for casual recreation, the overview shelter was never built.

Today, an unpaved dirt road extends around the top of the reservoir embankment. At the southwest edge of the south reservoir, a set of concrete stairs leads from the base of the reservoir to the rim, where it connects with a three-foot-wide concrete walkway that extends northward past the gatehouse and around the perimeter of the two reservoirs. The gatehouse sits atop the west reservoir embankment, between the two reservoirs. A modern trailer used for air quality monitoring is also located atop the embankment. A screen of conifers and deciduous trees lines the west reservoir embankment, screening the gatehouse from view from the west. Both reservoirs, the gatehouse and the air-quality monitoring trailer are enclosed by a chain link fence placed around the rim of the reservoir inside the concrete walk. The location of this seven-foot-high, chain-link fence topped with three strands of barbed wire, more closely approximates the proposed location of the "iron fence" called for in the original plans for the reservoir. Prior to the construction of this new fence, the fencing was set at the base of the reservoir embankments, enclosing a much larger area.

Both reservoirs are roughly rectangular in shape and made of cast-in-place concrete, with battered sides and a simple concrete lip around the perimeter (Figure 47). The north reservoir has a capacity of 61 million gallons, the south reservoir a capacity of 49 million gallons. As originally designed, both had central aeration spouts. When operational, the spouts shoott a plume of water into the air – much like a decorative fountain.

The gatehouse is a small brick bearing building, with an irregular plan, featuring Neo-Classical architectural detailing (Figure 48). The one-story building has a flat roof with a corbelled terra cotta cornice, featuring dentils beneath the fascia with molding below. Raised terra cotta brick quoins at the edges of the building and around the arched doorway add relief to the common bond five-inch brick walls. The front (east) elevation has a central projecting bay that contains a central entrance flanked on either side by a single window opening. The windows have terra cotta brick sills and lintels. The rear (west) elevation has two window openings. All of the window-openings have been in-filled with cement blocks. In addition, the fanlight above the door has been filled and the original door replaced with a modern steel door.

In addition to the resources described above, a modern, concrete block pump house, and the 1957 water quality lab are located at the base of the west side of the reservoir embankment, west of 16th Ave. The pump house is a recently constructed cement brick building with a shallow gable roof covered with asphalt shingles (Figure 49). The water quality lab, constructed in two phases, is of wood-frame construction with brick veneer (Figure 50). Although the building is

currently vacant, the interior laboratory spaces retains its original stainless steel sinks, and counter tops.

Summary

Of the resources described above, the two reservoirs, the pedestrian and vehicular access roads and the gatehouse date to the earliest period of development within the park. For the most part, they retain integrity and continue to represent the historically significant events with which they are associated. Although the current perimeter fences are modern and do not reflect the original fencing, they represent relatively minor modifications to the complex when compared with the overwhelming size of the two reservoirs – both of which retain integrity. The two reservoirs, the gatehouse and the system of walkways that connect them form a cohesive historical unit with good integrity. The modern buildings, including the water quality lab and the brick pump house would not be counted as contributing resources within this character area.

Figure 47. Looking southeast over the south reservoir. Note the central aeration spout and the raised concrete lip. The concrete walk in the foreground leads to the gatehouse (HRA 2001).

Figure 48. Looking northwest to the south (side) and east (front) elevations of the gatehouse. Note the concrete walk leading to the front of the building. The windows have been in-filled and the original door replaced.

Figure 49. Looking northwest at the south and east elevations of the modern pump house, located at the base of the reservoir embankment on the west side. The gravel road leads north to the water quality lab.

Figure 50. Looking south at the north elevation of the water quality lab (HRA 2001).

4.4 Formal Recreation Facilities

The remaining formal recreation facilities in Jefferson Park include the Jefferson (a.k.a. Mercer) playfield, the lawn bowling greens and associated clubhouse, and the community center and its associated facilities.

Jefferson playfield stands apart from the remaining recreational facilities within the park – isolated by facilities unrelated to recreation. This playfield, which currently incorporates a Samoan cricket pitch as well as baseball diamonds, has been moved or altered several times (Figure 51). It was moved when the middle school was constructed, and shortened when the City constructed the horticultural facility within the north third of the field. It appears that most people now access the field from the west side, since there is no vehicular access available to people coming from the east. There is, however, an asphalt path that connects the middle school with the community center.

The facilities associated with the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club have occupied the high point of ground north of the golf clubhouse since the mid-1950s. This cluster of resources includes the two bowling greens, the clubhouse and an associated storage building, and a landscaped parking area. The rear of the clubhouse and the bowling greens are enclosed with a low chain link fence. Concrete gutters line each of the two manicured greens. Benches line the sides of the west green, which is the one in current use (Figure 52). On the north side of the greens, just inside the fence, is a granite block engraved with the words "Beryl Wells Memorial Bowling Green – Erected by Rainier District Friends 1946" (see Figure 15). As originally

designed, the memorial contained a drinking fountain, however, it no longer functions in its current location.

An open patio at the south elevation of the clubhouse ties the building to the bowling greens and also shelters the entrance to the building. The clubhouse itself is a modest, rectangular frame building with a hip roof (Figure 53). The west and south walls of the building are filled with windows, providing a panorama of Elliot Bay – the view mentioned by J. C. Olmsted in correspondence related to his preliminary plan.

The parking area is located adjacent to the northeast corner of the clubhouse (Figure 54). Parking spaces are aligned along the south side of a circular drive, and the whole area, including the area in front of the clubhouse and outside the fence is landscaped, with lawn and birch trees. An ornamental tree has been planted in the area in the center of the circular drive and the perimeter is lined with a low boxwood hedge.

The community center and its associated recreational facilities occupy a pie-shaped piece of land north of the golf driving range, between the north reservoir and Beacon Ave. The center (Figure 55), completed in 1988, is directly accessed from one of the new parking areas. Active recreation areas include the basketball courts behind the center and the two tennis courts adjacent to the north side of the building (Figure 56). The children's playground is located north of the tennis courts, in the area vacated when the reservoir fences were moved closer to the reservoirs (Figure 57).

Summary

Of the recreation areas identified above, only the improvements associated with lawn bowling appear to have integrity. The lawn bowling facilities have been in their current location since about 1950, and the bowling club itself has an even longer association with Jefferson Park. The Jefferson playfield has been moved and modified – most recently in 1990 to accommodate the City horticultural facility. In addition, the improvements associated with the community center mostly date to the modern period. Although the community center incorporates portions of an older structure, its existing exterior appearance dates to the most recent renovation, and reflects contemporary architectural style. The tennis courts have occupied their current location since at least 1946.

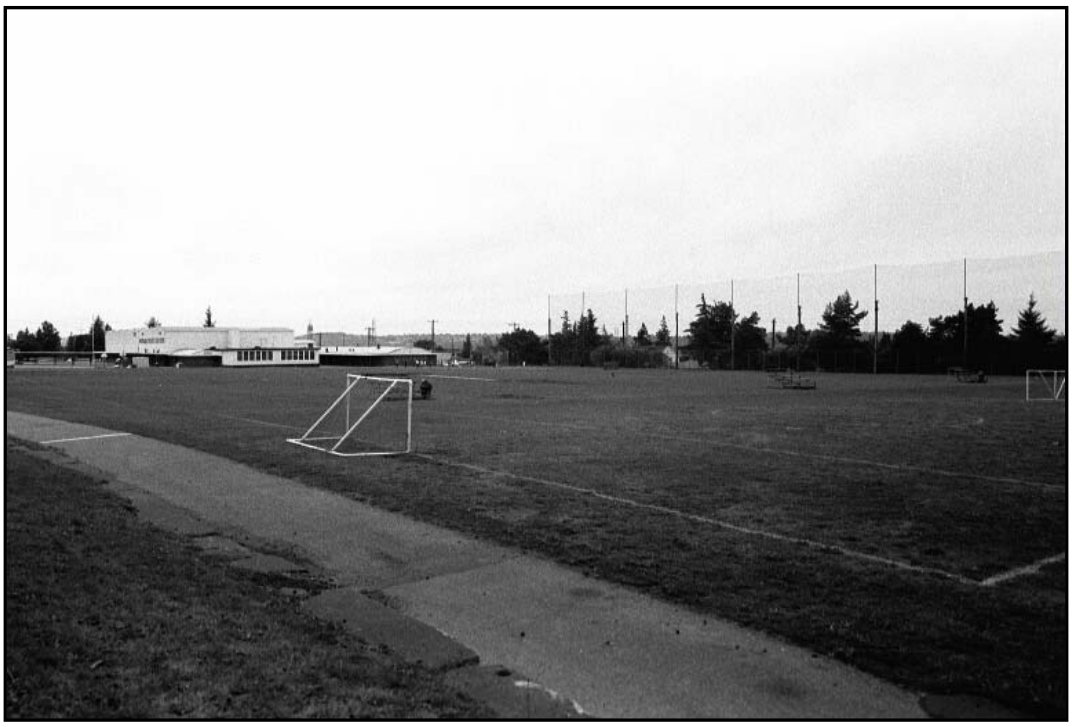

Figure 51. Looking southwest over the Jefferson (Mercer) play field. Mercer Middle School is in background (HRA 2001).

Figure 52. Looking west-southwest over the lawn bowling greens. Note the concrete gutter around the perimeter of the green (HRA 2001).

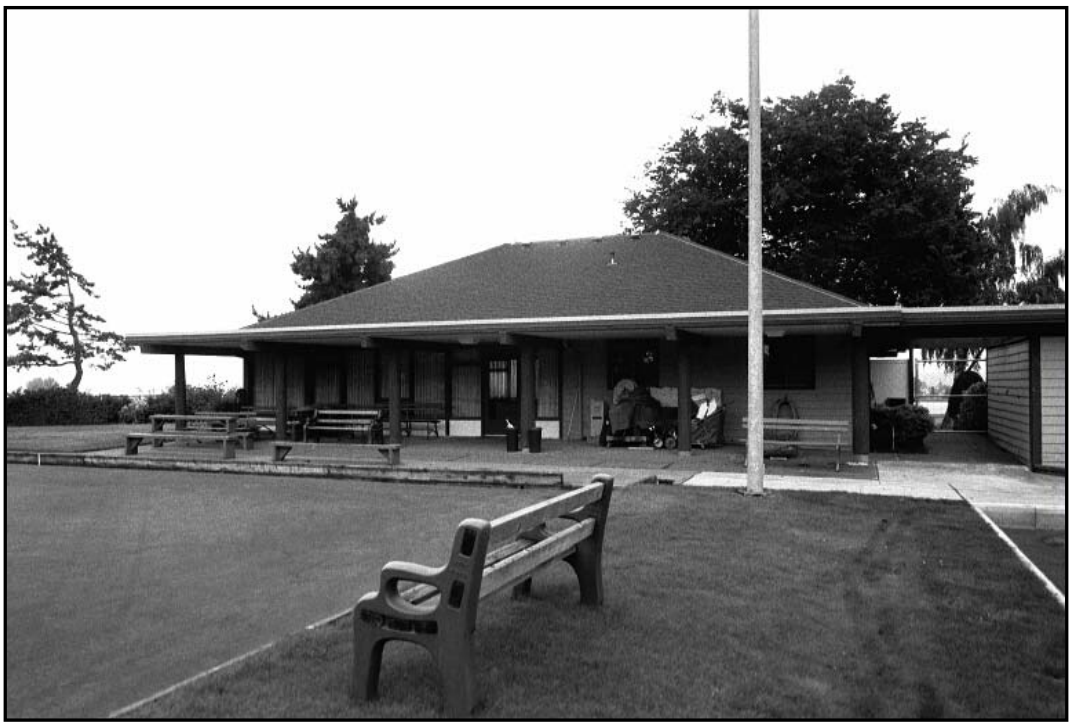

Figure 53. Looking northwest at the southeast elevation of the lawn bowling clubhouse. The view from the northwest elevation takes in Elliot Bay (HRA 2001).

Figure 54. Overview of the landscaped parking area associated with the lawn bowling club – driving range visible behind the parking spaces (HRA 2001).

Figure 55. Looking northwest at the Jefferson Park Community (Recreation) Center (HRA 2001).

Figure 56. Looking northeast to tennis courts located adjacent to the north side of the community center (HRA 2001).

Figure 57. Looking south along the west side of Beacon Ave. towards the new children's play area. Note the new reservoir fence (HRA 2001).

4.5 Recommendation of Landmark Eligibility

Of the six landmark criteria, Jefferson Park may qualify under C and F. Criterion C applies to properties that are associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political or economic heritage of a community, the city, state or the nation. Under this criterion, the 18-hole Jefferson Park golf course and the associated clubhouse would qualify as the first municipal course within the City of Seattle. It would also qualify because of its association with the early expansion of the City of Seattle's municipal water supply (since the two reservoirs in the park were constructed to accommodate water storage from the Cedar River Pipeline No. 2).

Criterion F applies to any resource that is an easily identifiable feature of its neighborhood or the city because of the prominence of its spatial location; contrasts of siting, age or scale; and because it contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of its neighborhood or the city. There can be no doubt about the importance of Jefferson Park to the Beacon Hill neighborhood and to the City of Seattle as a whole. However, the infrastructure that was important to some groups early in the historical period, such as the picnic grounds where Japanese-Americans held gatherings in the 1920s and 1930s, has been removed.

When considering the potential significance and eligibility of Jefferson Park as a City of Seattle Landmark, one has to consider the historical integrity of the park as a whole. Unfortunately, the overall organization of recreation facilities within the park does not reflect a single, cohesive period of development or a single developmental theme. Only the broadest outline of the Olmsted Brothers' plan was followed. Various areas within the park possess

integrity relative to certain time periods and to specific types of recreational activities. The various areas devoted to specific sports, such as golf and lawn bowling however, appear to have developed as independent units, with little thought to how that development would affect the overall movement of people through the park. Over the years, special interests and needs (some unrelated to recreation) have been accommodated within the boundary of the park – sometimes to the detriment of the recreation resource.

There are two alternative approaches available to the Jefferson Park Alliance in seeking City Landmark status for Jefferson Park. The first approach would be to draw a landmark boundary to include all of the parkland east of Beacon Ave. and all of the land west of Beacon Ave. and north of the VA Center. Within this boundary, one could identify all of the resources that are directly associated with development of the municipal water supply and with recreational facilities and that meet the City's age criterion for landmark status. There would, however, be many noncontributing resources within this large boundary. Alternatively, separate nominations could be prepared for the 18-hole golf course and its associated resources and for the resources associated with the municipal water supply.

From the standpoint of historic preservation, the second approach would be "cleaner," in that it eliminates the modern and/or historically insignificant resources from consideration. The drawback, however, is that it would fail to include some of the park resources that have particular importance to the residents of the Beacon Hill neighborhood. For example, neighborhood residents value the mature trees that line the west side of Beacon Ave. Although the area as a whole lacks integrity, most would wish to see the individual trees retained. Similarly, the area at the north end of Beacon Ave. near the intersection with Spokane, is valued by the neighborhood as a gateway to the park. Specifically, the trolley shelter and the firehouse are important reference points for the neighborhood. (It may be the case that the firehouse would qualify for individual listing as a City Landmark.)

In addition, participants in the recent planning process have discussed the importance of the scenic views from the park to surrounding areas, including Elliot Bay and the Cascade Range. J. C. Olmsted recognized the value of views in the 1912 preliminary plan. However, most subsequent park planning and development does not appear to have taken advantage of this resource. The only improvement within the park that was sited specifically to take advantage of a view is the lawn bowling clubhouse, the front windows of which frame the waters of Elliot Bay. Although some parts of the 18-hole golf course provide a panorama of the Cascade Range, in many areas the view is restricted by landscape plantings within the course and along its perimeter. With the planning effort currently in progress, park designers have the opportunity to use the 1912 Olmsted Brothers' plan as inspiration – especially with respect to the value of scenic views.

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